

History of the Hutwa Raj with some unrecorded events of the administration of Warren Hastings and of the Indian Mutiny.—By GIRINDRA NATH DUTT.

(With a Genealogical Table.)

The Rajas of Hutwa are of the same caste as the Rajas of Benares, Bettiah, and Tikari. They are popularly called Babhans or Bhuinhar Babhans, to which caste the majority of the landed aristocracy of Behar belong. Although the origin of the Bhuinhars is much disputed, there is every reason to believe that they had been swaying over Behar from a prehistoric age. The word "Babhan" is neither Sanskrit nor Prakrit. But the word distinctly appears to have been used in the inscriptions of Asoka and in the Buddhist Suttas in the sense of Brahmin. This, as well as their *locale*, the cradle and arena of Buddhism, has led antiquarians to believe the Babhans to be those Brahmins who had turned Buddhists in the palmy days of Buddhism, but had forsaken Buddhism after its downfall and usurped the lands of the Buddhist monasteries for which they were called "Bhuinhars," which too is not a Sanskrit word. The Pandits hold them to be "Murdhābhiṣiktas," a caste, mentioned in Manu and other Smritis, intermediate between the Brahmin and the Kshatriya, whilst the Babhans hold themselves to be those Brahmins who had, out of the six duties enjoined, forsaken three and allege the term to be a phonetic contraction of Brahmin. The *Deśabali*,¹ (a rare MSS. in the collection of the Asiatic Society of Bengal) which narrates the conquest of a Buddhist king, speaks of a king Ratul, who had settled at Amnour making friendship with the Bhuinhars there, and who subsequently conquered

¹ पीठघट्टाच्च निःसृत्य बहवो राजपुत्रकाः । मगधदेशे मागधीतीरे वसन्ति स्म पुरा नृप । पीठघट वसत्ताच्च चक्ररातुलो महीपतिः । गतवान् काञ्चिद्रोहम-
बासैव गतयान् चामोनरकं । आमनोरेव वसतिञ्चक्रे भूपो दैवतः । चयनपुरञ्च
येनैव जितं युद्धकुतूहलैः । भोजपुरञ्च प्रशंसाम निजबाहुवलेन च । पञ्चविंशति-
राज्यान्धि कृत्वा रातुलभूपतिः । पञ्चत्वं गतवान् तत्र ब्रह्मकोपाच्च वैजन । त्रिषु
स्थानेषु भूमिहारजातिश्चैव ततः परम् । निपात्य च गङ्गायाश्चोभयपार्श्वञ्च चाधि-
चक्रे च वैजल ॥

Cheynpore¹ and the extensive tract on both sides of the Ganges after killing the Bhuinhars who swayed there. The Hutwa Raj family also dates its origin from a prehistoric age. The present minor Maharaja-Kumar traces his descent from a long line of ancestors, Rajas, whom he counts up to 102 generations above him. The founder of the Dynasty was Raja Bir Sen. Allowing even an average of 25 years for each generation, Raja Bir Sen would be about 25 centuries older than the present progeny of his and this would carry us back some six centuries before the Christian era, *i.e.*, nearly about the time of Buddha's birth. The popular belief is that this part of the country anciently called Kośala was in the days of yore inhabited by an aboriginal race called the *Cheros* and numerous mounds, ghats, square wells, and old tanks are still being pointed out as the vestiges of supremacy of the Chero Rajas. The remnants of this aboriginal race are still to be found in this part of the country and many of them hold jagirs from the Bettiah Raj for their services as guards and peons; but they have now been classed in the lowest order of the Hindu Society with the *Musahars*. This popular belief seems to have a very good historical significance as we know from history that the first spread of Aryan colonisation from the banks of the Saraswati was to Kurukshetra (Karnal), Panchal (Rohilkhund), Matsya (Jaipur), Surasena (Mathura), Kaśi (Benares), Kośal (Oudh), Magadh (South Behar), Videha (North Behar). Thus it appears probable that the aboriginal Cheros were overturned by the Aryan Kshatriyas, the present Rajputs (some of whom still hold a very high position, as for instance, the Maharajas of Majhowli who draw even a longer chain of ancestors than the Hutwa Rajas), who in their turn were subverted by the Bhuinhars, amongst whom, very probably, was Raja Bir Sen, the founder of the present Hutwa Raj Dynasty. The history of Kośala at the age ascribed to Bir Sen further goes to confirm the aforesaid conclusion. We know that the two greatest kingdoms of the south-eastern half of the Gangetic valley were the lands of Kośala and Magadha which had become the chief scenes of Buddha's teaching and labours. "The Sākya, the family to which Buddha belonged, were the forerunners of such Rajput families as have in later times, by the aid of armed bands, held their ground against the neighbouring Rajas. Of these greater monarchies there stood in the closest proximity to the Sākya the powerful kingdom of Kośala adjoining it on the south and west. The kings of Kośala are said to have brought the Sākya land within their power and to have exterminated the ruling family. The Kośala king to whom this act was ascribed was Viḍūḍabha, the son of

¹ These villages at Amnour and Cheynpore in the Saran District still exist, inhabited by influential Rajputs and Bhuinhars.

Buddha's contemporary and patron Pasenadi, and that the later legends represent the Sākyaas as having been destroyed during Buddha's lifetime." It is, therefore, not improbable that Raja Bir Sen had received the Raj and the title from king Viḍūḍabha for his services in subverting the Sākyaas.¹ The fact that the ancient seat of the earliest Rajas were at *Bharhichowra*, Perg. Salempore, Majhowli, in the district of Gorakhpur, further goes to establish this conclusion. The Baghochia Bhuinhars² to which the Hutwa Rajas belong still exist there.

The patronymic of the earlier Rajas was "Sen," which in the 16th descent was changed to "Sinha" and in the 83rd to "Mall," and in the 87th to "Shahi." The tradition is that these titles were conferred on them by the Emperor of Delhi. But this cannot at least be correct in the case of the 16th Raja Jagat Sinha, whose date, according to the aforesaid calculation, comes to be about 150 B.C., when the modern Delhi was unknown. Although Yudhiṣṭhira, the hero of the Mahābhārata, founded the city of Indraprastha, the site of which coincides with a part of Delhi, nothing was known of it till the beginning of the Christian era, when king Dilu founded a new city which he named Delhi after himself. Moreover, at this remote period, the Maurya kings of Magadh, descendants of the mighty Asoka, were reigning in the Northern India and there was no "Emperor" or "King of Delhi." But the date thus ascribed to this Raja brings us very approximately to a historical incident. Meander, the Bactrian king of Sakala, in the Panjab, had advanced in 141 B.C., as far as the city of Sāketa in Kośala (Ayodhyā), but had to retrace his steps on account of the stubborn resistance he met with from Puṣyamitra, the general of the last Maurya king, Brihadratha. It seems that Raja Jagat Sinha had assisted the Maurya king in driving out his enemies and thus got the title of "Sinha" which means 'Lion,' an emblem of the Mauryas which is still found on the pillars of Asoka in these parts. But as the name of even the great king Asoka had been forgotten by the people, and has only been unearthed by the researches of scholars, everything of remote antiquity is erroneously ascribed to Delhi, the real fact having been lost in oblivion.

¹ When this paper was read in the meeting, Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Shastri argued that if we only loosen a little the rigidity of assigning the 25 years' rule to each Raja, we could at once identify this Bir Sen, the founder of the Hutwa Raj family, with a historical personage, Bir Sen, who was General of the Sunga king and had conquered Deccan and was ancestor of the Sen kings of Bengal.

² The tradition is that the Bagachin Bhuinhars and the Bisen Rajputs, to which the Majhowli Rajas belong, are descended from the one and the same ancestor, Mayur Bhatt, who had four wives of four castes.

By the same method of calculation we arrive at the date of the 83rd Raja, Jay Mall, to be about 1525 A.D. This was an age of unrest and disorder in India. The last of the Lodi kings fell into the hands of Babar in the Battle of Panipat and Babar became master of an extensive territory from the western limits of Bengal to the eastern boundary of Persia. The Pathans had attempted to set up a new kingdom at Jaunpur under the leadership of Darya Khan Lohani. On hearing of this Babar set out for Jaunpur and defeated him. In his expedition he obtained possession of Benares and Patna, and his son Prince Humayun was left to tranquilise and settle Oudh. Behar was in possession of Mahmud Lodi,¹ who made himself master in 1529. Babar defeated Mahmud Lodi and appointed the grandson of Darya Khan to the Government of Behar. Then followed the memorable fights between Humayun and Sher Shah resulting in Humayun's flight. The battles of Buxar (1539) and Kanauj in which Humayun was completely routed by Sher Shah took place at this time, and Sher Shah ascended the throne of Delhi in 1540 A.D. Such times of disorder and troubles gave ample scope for exhibiting one's military genius, and there seems little doubt that Raja Jay Mall had aided one of the parties and received, or more probably assumed, the title of "Malla" (meaning in Sanskrit, 'Wrestler'), for it is not likely that any Mahomedan kings of such remote date would have conferred a title which has purely a Sanskrit origin and signification. To fix accurately the dates of these earlier Rajas is, if not altogether hopeless, a hard task, and in this respect the Sanads, &c., if available, would have been of much use, but all earlier records of the Raj were either destroyed or taken away by the rebel Maharaja Fateh Shahi of whom we will speak later on. In the absence of any such documentary evidence, the materials for the history of the period of these earlier Rajas are necessarily the composition of the hereditary bards (Raj Bhats) retained in the Durbar, the tradition current in the Raj family and in collateral branches and the popular belief in the places alleged to have been connected with any historical incidents.

We have come to the Raja who is the 86th in descent, Kalyan Mall, the first in the line to receive the title of Maharaja. He had made his seat at Kalyanpur, named after him, where the ruins of his fortress and a big well of 50 feet in diameter, said to have been constructed by

¹ Copper coins of the Lodis are often found in these parts. The author found some, as also the former D.S.P. of Saran, Mr. Knyvett, near Kataya Police outpost in 1898.

² The title "Malla" is very old. As for the "Mallas" of Kusiwara and Pava, *vide* Sacred Books of the East, Vol. XI, Buddhist Suttas.

him are still extant. We calculate his date, with a greater historical certainty, to be 1600 A.D., *i.e.*, the latter part of the reign of Akbar, when the great Financier Raja Todar Mall was Viceroy of Bengal and Behar and the division of the country into Parganas after a general survey was taken in hand. Kalyan Mall must have greatly assisted Todar Mall in his undertakings, and in recognition of the services rendered by him the pargana Kalyanpur Kuadi, wherein his seat lay, was named after his capital and he was made a Maharaja by the Great Akbar. (*Vide* Note on page 227.)

The next, 87th Raja, was Maharaja Khemkaran Singh Shahi, Bahadur, who received both the title of "Maharaja Bahadur" and "Shahi" from the Emperor of Delhi. This last patronymic is yet current in the family. His date we calculate to be 1625 A.D., in the latter part of the reign of Jahangir, when Behar enjoyed a degree of internal tranquility which had not fallen to its lot at any time previous to the Mahomedan conquest. In the days of Akbar, Jahangir, and Shah Jahan, we find the Hindu chiefs appointing their agents in the court of Delhi to protect and further their interest, to personally attend in the Emperor's court, and to accept military and civil services under them; and some such meritorious services had enabled Khemkaran Shahi to get the double title of "Maharaja Bahadur" and "Shahi" (a word of pure Persian origin meaning 'of royal rank') and raised him to the highest pitch of honour he could aspire. The fact that the Majhowli chiefs received similar honours and that the Darbhanga and Bettiah Maharajas owe their origin to these Emperors of Delhi goes to corroborate our conclusion.¹

Maharaja Khemkaran Shahi was equally blessed in the ramification of his issues. We find from the genealogical tree of the Hutwa Raj family, annexed herewith, that he had five sons and a brother and must have found the little fortress of Kalyanpur too small for him and very much unsuited to his present high position. So he must have shifted his capital from Kalyanpur to Husainpur, about 3 miles from Kalyanpur, and built an extensive fort there on a very imposing site and commanding position between the junctions of the two rivers Jharai and Shiahi, the last one now entirely silted up. Husainpur remained the seat of the Hutwa Maharajas till it was destroyed during the reign of Warren Hastings in the rebellion of Maharaja Fateh Shahi, the 99th in descent, who had also enlarged the precinct of the fort by

¹ It is a noteworthy fact that the four *quondam* chiefs of Behar, Dumraon Bettiah, Darbhanga and Hutwa, received similar honour almost simultaneously from the British Government. They were all made Knight Commanders of the Indian Empire one by one.

adding another fort which is still called the “*Naya killah.*” After the fall of Husainpur the family split into two, the elder branch in the direct line of Maharaja Fateh Shahi establishing at Tancohi, where they found the Tancohi Raj in Gorakhpur; and the younger branch, descendants of Babu Basant Shahi, establishing at Hutwa, founded the present Hutwa Raj at about 1802 A.D. The ruins of the fort Husainpur are still extant, and the place abounds in sites¹ of historical interest. The late Maharaja Sir Krishna Pratap Shahi, Bahadur, K.C.I.E., had built a decent bungalow on an elevated place in the “old fort” in front of an ancient archway still supporting a big banyan tree, had laid a very extensive mango garden of about 100 Behar bighas on both sides of the road, excavated a big tank with ghat in front of the temple of Siva constructed by him, and re-excavated one within the fort and edified its bank with a masonry ghât.

A historical tradition is associated with the name of the 95th Maharaja Jubraj Shahi, Bahadur. He is said to have wrested Pargana Seepah, which still forms a portion of the Raj, from Raja Kabul Mahomed, of Barheria, who was killed in the fight. The lineal descendants of Raja Kabul Mahomed who are still living in the destroyed citadel have in their family a like tradition with respect to the ruins of their fortune. There is a nice legend connected with this event. It is said that Maharaja Jubraj Shahi Bahadur was several times defeated in his wars with the Raja Kabul Mahomed of Barheria, who began to extend his estate by encroaching on the Husainpur (Hutwa) Raj. The Mahomedan chief is said to have made a baughty proposal to the Maharaja to give up two villages, *Turkaha* and *Bhurkaha*, and to retain two others, Selari and Bhelari, and demanded that if the Maharaja was not agreeable to that settlement he would claim all the four.² After his last defeat the Maharaja was fleeing through the jungles with a handful of followers, when the Goddess Bhavani appeared to him in a dream and complained that she was miserable under the Mahomedan rules. She encouraged the Maharaja to fight again with his handful of men and promised aid. “The moment you commence your journey,” she said, “you will see a jackal on the left and a serpent on the right, bow down to the former and kill the latter.” The Maharaja acted according

¹ There is a stone image of a Goddess called *सैयादेवी* under a *Bar* tree on the bank of the Jharai river. The Rajas of Husainpur before going to battle used to worship her and present offerings. Probably *सैयादेवी* is a phonetic contraction of *सहायादेवी* meaning Goddess of assistance.

² Thus sings the bard “*तुरकाहा भुरकाहा मोर । सेलारी भेलारी तोर । मानो तो मानो नही वहभी है मोर ॥*”

to her instructions and gained a complete victory over his adversary at the decisive battle of Ramchandrapore, a mile east of Thaway. The image of Durga was found in the forest of Thaway, which was an old fortress, in accordance with the dream dreamt by the Maharaja, under a singular and peculiar tree which still exists within the temple compound and whose leaves some years ago were sent to the Society for identification. It is reported that one of the feet of the Goddess had sunk to a fathomless depth and the other is out resting on a figure of a lion. The Maharajas of Hutwa have raised a splendid temple for the Goddess and built a palace for their residence as they often resort there for worshipping the Goddess. Food "*Bali*" for jackals is still offered in the jungles. A big fair is held there in the month of *Chait*.

To ascertain more correctly the date of Maharaj Jubraj Shahi, Bahadur, we should make the date of Maharaja Fateh Shahi, which is very well-known and authentic, our *locus standi*, because only three generations intervened between him and Maharaja Fateh Shahi who had raised the standard of rebellion against the British Government in 1767 A.D. By the examination of the genealogical tree of the Hutwa Raj family, it appears that the two Maharajas, the 96th and the 97th, who succeeded Maharaja Jubraj Shahi, Bahadur, had only an ephemeral existence, and Maharaja Chait Shahi, Bahadur, the eldest son of Jubraj Shahi, dying without any issue and the Raj reverting, in accordance with its time-immemorial *Kulācāra*, to the eldest male member of the family, Maharaja Kurtal Shahi, Bahadur, a brother of Maharaja Jubraj Shahi, and the 4th son of Maharaja Balbhadra Shahi, Bahadur. So allowing a lapse of 50 years instead of 75 from Jubraj Shahi to Fateh Shahi, the former seems to have lived at about 1719 A.D. This was a period of anarchy and unrest in India. The Great Moghul Empire was doomed. About this time (1719) Farrukhsiyar's life was put an end to, and the Saiyid brothers were carrying on the Government in the name of Muhammad Shah, the emperor elected by them. The Nizam of Hyderabad had become independent, the Marhattas were plundering the Deccan, Malwa, and Guzerat, and every chief in India was trying to raise his head inspired with a spirit of self-aggrandisement.

We now come to Maharaja Sirdar Shahi, the immediate predecessor of Maharaja Fateh Shahi. He seems to have lived till 1747. He is said to have invaded the principality of Majhowli, in Gorakhpur, and to have demolished their fortress.¹ It is said that one of the conditions on which

¹ The Majhowli Maharajas were of considerable influence during the reign of the Delhi Moghul Emperors. They were called "*tilak dhari Rajas*," i.e., empowered to instal other Rajas. It is said that one of the menial servants (a Kahar by caste) of a Maharaja of Majhowli while shampooing the feet of his master had accidentally

Sirdar Shahi had made peace with the Majhowli Raja, was that the latter was not to go about with Nishans (flags), and drums (Dankas), ensigns of Rajaship, until he had retaken these by force from the Husainpur (Hutwa) Rajas; and that the Majhowli chiefs, though they are still known as Rajas, yet go about conforming to the conditions of this, as they deem it, ignominious treaty. These Nishans and Dankas of Majhowli are said to be still in possession of the Tumcohi Rajas, the elder branch of the Hutwa Raj family, residing in Gorakhpur District. This must have been during the total fall of the Delhi Empire which ensued after the invasion and departure of Nadir Shah. The Marhattas were the masters of the whole Deccan and commenced depredation in Bengal and Behar exacting *Chauth* under the leadership of Raghuji Bhonsli; Malwa and Guzerat had separated from the Empire; the Sikhs were powerful in Punjab and the Rohillas were virtually independent. In short the Emperor was Emperor of India only in name, and the local chiefs fought with each other with impunity.

Next we come to a period of which we have authentic records which well supply an omission of events yet unrecorded by any historian of Warren Hastings' administration. Even Burke with all his mastery of details in his 'Impeachment' was not cognisant of the State of Behar at that time. The 99th of the line was Maharaja Fateh Shahi Bahadur, who, as we have already stated, was a rebel against the British Government in 1767. His lot was cast in troubled and eventful times. The Mahomedan power was fast waning, and the English Government had not yet been firmly established in the land. The last of the Moghuls, Shah Alam II, by repeated invasions, did more to unsettle the affairs of Behar than to gain any advantage for himself. He had been incited to these attempts, by some of the chief zemindars, amongst others, Balvant Singh of Benares, a relation and friend of Fateh Shahi's family. Mir Kasim's attempt at uprooting the British power had signally failed, and

fallen on his feet dozing, and his forehead touched the Maharaja's toe. "Thou art a Raja now and I will give you a Raj," exclaimed the Maharaja, and promised that the distance he would carry him in sleep in a Palki would be his Raj. The Palki-bearers went round a considerable portion of the Maharaja's estate, who was only awakened by the cries of his honest men alarmed to see the Maharaja's doom. The portion thus got by the Palki-bearers now forms the Perdowna Estate in Gorakhpur, and although the Roy Sahebs of Perdowna (the decendants of the recipient of the grant) are bigger Zemindars in the district than the present Maharaja himself, they attend on the Majhowli Maharaja on the Dasehra day with *Hathar chilinchi* to exhibit their loyalty.

The high position then held by the Majhowli chief must have been one of envy to Maharaja Sirdar Sahi, and to humiliate the former must have been the latter's ambition.

the East India Company obtained the Dewani of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa. The administration of affairs in Behar was vested in a joint council of Europeans and natives, and when at the end of the year 1767, the Revenue Collector of Sircar Saran demanded rents on behalf of the Company, Fateh Shahi not only refused to pay them but gave fight to the Company's troops who were sent against him in consequence, and it was with much difficulty that these troops succeeded in expelling him from Husainpur. The revenue of the district of Husainpur was then farmed out to one Govind Ram; but Fateh Shahi, who had retired into the jungles bordering on the then independent dominions of the Vizier of Oudh and the province of Behar, watched every opportunity of making raids into the district, to plunder the villages and stop the collection of revenue. The unsettled state of the country, his easy access to the territories of an independent prince, where British troops were unable to pursue him and where a part of his zemindari was situated, the impenetrable jungles which surrounded the place, Pargana Jogini, to which he had removed his family residence (the present Tumcohi) from Husainpur, the collusion of the *amils* of the Vizier of Oudh, and above all the attachment of the subjects to their expelled Raja and their dislike of a Government farmer,—all contributed to favour his designs, and he kept the country around in a constant state of terror and the British authorities constantly on the alert. In 1772, the year just preceding Warren Hastings' appointment to the Governor-Generalship of the Indian possessions of the Company, in one of these raids, Govind Ram, the Government farmer, was put to death, and the revenue collection came to a stand-still. The Collector of Sircar Saran, which included the former district of Husainpur, finding that the rents could not be collected so long as Fateh Shahi remained in that situation, recommended that he should be induced to come in on the promise of an allowance being granted him by Government. Govind Ram's murder was forgiven on Fateh Shahi's solemnly denying any knowledge of the transaction, and the Collector's recommendation on his behalf was acceded to. Fateh Shahi then came to Patna, and on an allowance being fixed for his maintenance promised to live quietly with his family at Husainpur, which was then under the charge of one Mir Jumla,¹ who was styled Superintendent of Government Revenue; and the Husainpur Raj Estates, after being kept under direct management for a year, were let out in farm to Babu Basant Shahi, cousin of Maharaja Fateh Shahi, on the security of the unfortunate Raja Chait Singh of Benares. But the turbulent disposition of Fateh Shahi did not long allow him to remain in this condition of quietude. Within two months he withdrew again from the

¹ This is evidently a mistake for Mir Jamāl; see page 210.—Ed.

country and commenced anew his career as a border freebooter. Constant complaints now began to be received at the Central Board of Patna, from the officers entrusted with the collections, of the various depredations committed by Fateh Shahi; and in the beginning of May, 1775, the Provincial Council, which then had taken the place of the Central Board, received information that both Babu Basant Shahi and Mir Jumla had been killed by him in a night-attack which he had made on them at a place called Jadopur on the bank of the Gandak. It is said that Fateh Shahi was at the jungle of *Charkhia* on the opposite side of the river *Khauwa*, bordering on the district of Gorakhpur, when he had received information that Babu Basant Shahi was collecting rent at Jadopur which was about 22 miles from his abode. Fateh Shahi started at once with one thousand horsemen and three hundred matchlock men, and marching the whole night reached his enemy's abode early in the morning of the next day and surrounded it. Two legends are current regarding the murder of Babu Basant Shahi. One is that Fateh Shahi had implored Basant Shahi to join his side against the English, which proposal Basant Shahi had stubbornly refused on the ground that he had pledged not to be disloyal to the English. Thereupon Fateh Shahi challenged Basant Shahi to a duel in which the latter was killed. The other is that Fateh Shahi, after overtaking Basant Shahi, was overpowered with a feeling of fraternal affection and was retreating, when he was questioned by one of his menial servants, Gopal Bari, and a kinsman-follower, why he let off Basant Shahi after getting him within his hold with so much trouble. To this the Maharaja is said to have abusively replied, "I let him off because he was my cousin. Was he your son-in-law that you let him off?" Thus incited, these two men at once rushed upon Basant Shahi and beheaded him. The place where he was beheaded, once a garden, is still called *Mudkataya Bag*, and the *peepul* tree under which this atrocious act was committed, is yet worshipped by the Maharajas of Hutwa, who directly owe their origin to Basant Shahi. Maharaja Fateh Shahi then sent the head of the deceased to his wife at Husainpur, who with her husband's head on her lap ascended the funeral pyre followed by 13 of her maid-servants, uttering at the same time an everlasting curse to her progeny who would ever have any connection whatsoever with Fateh Shahi's family—a mandate still strictly adhered to by the Maharajas of Hutwa, who when passing through the *Tamcohi* (Fateh Shahi's) Raj do not even drink water or take any food belonging to the place. Under the shadowy grove of an ancient Baniya tree in the fort of Husainpur there exist 14 *Stupas* wherein are enshrined the ashes of these 14 *Satis* who are worshipped annually and every time the Maharajas and Maharanis of Hutwa visit the place.

The news of the murder of Babu Basant Shahi and Mir Jumla having been reported to the authorities, two companies of Sepoys under Lieutenant Erskine, the 16th Battalion of Bengal Sepoys, who were then at a short distance, immediately set out in pursuit, but Fateh Shahi conducted his movement with such celerity that he had fled to his retreat of Jogini jungle with his booty before any information of his movements was received. Fateh Shahi had under him now a trained body of horsemen and matchlock men, and his followers had been swollen by the addition of *Fakirs* and banditti. The whole country was brought under contribution by him, and Lieutenant Erskine expressed an opinion to the provincial council at Patna, that unless a body of troops were to follow and drive him out of the Jogini jungles, Fateh Shahi would prove a pest to the inhabitants around, and that there was so many entrances to this jungle that it would take at least a battalion of Sepoys to block them up and pursue the rebel with any prospect of success. The provincial council of Patna recommended in their letter, dated 14th June, 1775, to the Hon'ble Warren Hastings, Governor-General and Council of Revenue, that as Fateh Shahi had taken possession in the dominions of Nawab Asafuddaula of Oudh, and as it was not practicable to seize his person without the assistance of the Nawab's faujdars in the Gorakhpur District, the Nawab should be written to through Mr. Bristow, the then British resident at the Court of Oudh, to render such assistance. Accordingly the Governor-General and Council wrote to the Nawab of Oudh and Mr. Bristow that the person found to be concerned in the murder might be apprehended. But though there was a seeming compliance with this request, nothing appears to have been definitely done for the arrest of Fateh Shahi. Lieutenant Hardinge then stationed at Baragaon (3 miles from the present Hutwa) was sent in pursuit with a body of Sepoys of the 5th battalion. His instructions were to co-operate with Syed Mahomed, the Faujdar of Gorakhpur, for the arrest of Fateh Shahi, and on no account to act as principal. Lieutenant Hardinge and his detachment remained for seven days in Syed Mahomed's camp in hourly expectation of coming into close quarters with the rebel, and when Hardinge persuaded the Syed to march within a hundred and fifty yards of the rebel entrenchments, thinking that an effort to seize the rebel would then be inevitable, Syed Mahomed's troops stopped short, and would not advance a yard towards the jungle. At this juncture, Hardinge received a message from the Syed telling him that the attack would be deferred till the next morning. It was afterwards found that Syed Mahomed was then engaged in settling his revenue matters with the rebel and Lieutenant Hardinge, thinking that his instructions were to assist in the

arrest of Fateh Shahi and not to collect revenue for the Nawab, at once returned to Baragaon with his detachment in disgust. He, however, found that rebel's position so strong that he wrote to the Provincial Council of Patna that to ensure success, he must have a greater force than that which he then commanded, and also a gun. The season of the year was then too far advanced to despatch a military force for a fresh attempt to seize Fateh Shahi; but Lieutenant Hardinge was instructed to surprise him if possible, and to issue a proclamation offering a reward of Rs. 10,000 to any person who should either apprehend him or point out the place of his residence. In the meantime the Nawab of Oudh was written to, to farm out the portion of Husainpur zemindary comprised in his dominions on a fair and equitable adjustment of rent to the farmer with whom the rest of the zemindary situated in the British Territory had been settled; and Captain Coxe, then commanding a battalion at Bagaha, was instructed to hold himself ready to march with his battalion to Gorakhpur and to use his utmost endeavours in conjunction with the Nawab's force, both to apprehend Fateh Shahi and to put the farmer in possession of the Husainpur zemindary.

Nothing, however, appears to have been done, as the English Government, soon after, was embarrassed on all sides by the rebellion of Raja Chait Singh of Benares (16th August, 1781), which spread a regular conflagration in Behar, or more strictly, in the countries between Allahabad to Monghyr. In Behar there was a regular concentration of troops to harass the English. The revolt of Chait Singh burst suddenly on the officials of Behar, and Mr. Ross, the Revenue Chief at the head of the Executive Administration of Patna, wrote to the Council at Calcutta on the 20th August, 1781, that "since the revolt of Raja Chait Singh on the 16th instant, every communication by *Dak* had been cut off from thence to Benares, and so well had he (Chait Singh) concerted measures that Mr. Ross could obtain no intelligence whatever from that quarter." On the 29th August, Mr. Grome, the Collector of Saran, wrote to inform Mr. Ross that Riza Kuli Khan the *amil* of Sasseram was at that time with Raja Chait Singh, and many of the inhabitants of that district, particularly the Ujain Rajputs, were sincerely attached to him, and that one Bunyad Singh, who belonged to Chaitn-pore and afterwards became a Mahomedan, was with 150 horses and 500 armed Sepoys on his way to Ramnagar to join Riza Kuli Khan. A letter dated the 6th October, 1781, from Mr. Ross to Major Hardy, Commanding the Patna Militia, shows that Fateh Shahi was still giving trouble in Saran at that period with several zemindars and others in the jurisdiction of the Revenue Chief of Patna, and had armed and clothed his dependants in the military accoutrements of the Company;

and Major Hardy was accordingly directed to seize all people "so dressed in masquerade." The letter of Mr. Ross to the Council at Calcutta above alluded to goes on to say that he had despatched private messengers to Mr. Middleton at Lucknow, Colonel Hannay in the Gorakhpur country, Colonel James Morgan commanding the brigade at Cawnpore, and Captain Williams bordering on the Banga and Sircar Saran districts to apprise them of these events. Along with this letter was an extract from a private letter from Captain Nokes, commanding a battalion in Major Moses Crawford's regiment at Buxar, on its march to Benares dated the 25th August, 1781, addressed to Captain Haukesly Hall at Dinapore which stated that the country between the river Karamnasa and Benares was lined with troops against whom it was madness to proceed with a force less than four battalions and as many guns, and that the companies of Popham's regiment that was left at Mirzapore and had attempted to join the Sikhs that had returned to Chunar with Mr. Hastings, had suffered an astonishing loss. They were intercepted in a narrow passage in some of the streets of that town and were butchered in a most inhuman manner. Captain Mayafee, of the artillery, was beheaded and his head was carried about the town as a trophy. This gentleman had also the company of Frenchmen that Sir Eyre Coote brought from Madras, consisting of 100 men, who were also miserably hacked to pieces, and only 14 of them escaped to Chunar. Five other artillery officers were killed and wounded with Captain Mayafee and to complete their misfortune, Captain Maxwell and his battalion were in great danger as parties of men were lying in wait to intercept his passage at the ghats of Gogra. The letter further stated that "a number of Daudies (rowers) of the Governor's fleet that arrived that day, gave an account of several of their brethren being tied together and chucked in the river and drowned and others cut to pieces." The murder of the English soldiers was retaliated with vengeance; for we find Major Moses Crawford commanding the 28th regiment of Sepoys, writing from Camp Dildarnagar: "The roads on all quarters are stopped, and *harkaras* going between this and Ramnagar can only travel in the night and conceal themselves in the day, and even then they are sometimes obliged to show a light pair of heels for their escape. You will have observed that Popham in a sally among the enemy some nights ago possessed himself of four guns and that many of Raja Chait Singh's followers are relinquishing his cause. This I heard from Popham's *harkara*. It is uncertain whether this will reach you, as it must pass through a very large jungle which is filled with a crowd of rascals who make a point of intercepting our correspondence as much as they can. I have just sent off a party to burn one of their villages in this neigh-

bourhood, *in terrorem* to the rest. We have plenty of provisions of all sorts and commonly get it for the trouble of taking it from deserted villages, or of those who are disaffected to us, which villages we always burn.”

At Aurangabad Raja Narain Singh of Siris and Cutumba had collected a large body of matchlock men and joined Chait Singh's faujdar, Bechu Singh, at Marahab, with a force estimated at 15,000 strong, and in order to resist progress of Major James Crawford's regiment which marched from Chetra to effect a junction with Major Moses Crawford at Buxar, who was directed by the Governor-General to take post in the vicinity of Bijugarh to intercept Chait Singh's troops at Ramnagar, Narain Singh posted himself at the foot of the pass of Argoor with 1,500 matchlock men intending to dispute the passage of the troops. Major Crawford hearing of this arrangement quitted Argoor and made for Cowreah pass which he occupied, and pushed his way without molestation over the hills to Bijugarh. Narain Singh was afterwards arrested and prosecuted for rebellion and murder of one Byroo Singh, an inferior zemindar under him, and was sent to Dacca as a State prisoner.

Raja Akbar Ali Khan of Nurhat and Samoy was confined at Patna for owing heavy arrears. On the breaking out of Chait Singh's rebellion he made his escape and raised a body of 5,000 matchlock men and commenced plundering the country. On the 13th October, 1781, Ensign Downes, of Militia, was sent to quell the insurrection and to capture the rebel, but he speedily found his force of one company insufficient for the purpose, as the Raja had taken a strong position in the Gumeah pass to resist the advance of the troops. Accordingly two companies of soldiers under Captain Powell were despatched from Dinapore, who after a hard struggle on the 22nd October, occupied a hill which commanded the enemy's position. The rebel was driven out of the pass with signal loss and chased into the Kharackpur hills in the jurisdiction of Mr. Cleveland who was requested to seize him. Apparently afterwards the rebellion of Akbar Ali was condoned.

Such being the troubled times in Behar, and the North-West, it was impossible for Maharaja Fateh Shahi to keep quiet and not to avail of this opportunity. In forwarding the petition of Maharaja Kalyan Singh, of Patna, and his Naib Raja Kheali Ram—persons with whom the whole of Subah Behar was settled by the Governor-General in April, 1781, under the title of Dewan of the company—to the Governor-General at Chunargarh on the 30th August, Mr. Ross wrote: “Fateh Shahi had been induced from the present aspect of things to enter Husainpur, but Mr. Grome, the Collector of that district, had taken the most effectual measures to prevent him from penetrating any great length in the

district." Fateh Shahi's action at this moment has been well described in the annexed petition of the sons of Babu Dhujju Singh (of whom we shall presently speak) forwarded to Mr. Thomas Graham, Acting President and Member of the Board of Revenue, Fort William, by the Acting Collector, of Saran, with his letter of 11th July, 1805. In it we find that, "in 1189 F.S. (1781 A.D.) when the Governor-General was at Benares to punish the rebel Raja Chait Singh he had ordered the different divisions of the army including the battalion stationed at Baragaon in Pergunah Kalyanpur Kowadi to join him at that place. Raja Fateh Shahi availing himself of the opportunity offered by their absence, came with Ajeet Mull and other zemindars from Gorakhpur with a body of 20,000 men to Baragaon and attacked and plundered the station. Mr. Grome, the Collector of the district, on receipt of this intelligence wrote a *parwanah* to Dhujju Singh desiring him to join the *tehsildar* and afford his assistance in driving Maharaja Fateh Shahi beyond the boundary of the company's provinces. Dhujju Singh immediately called his adherents amounting to about one thousand men, and after unremitting exertions for eighteen days succeeded in defeating Fateh Shahi in battle, and at length obliged him to retreat to the jungles with the loss of many hundreds of the people who fell in different engagements. Dhujju Singh and his sons were also severely wounded when Major Lucas with a reinforcement of regular troops came to his assistance and uniting his forces with those of Dhujju Singh, whom for their gallant conduct he honoured by giving the lead in action, soon after drove Fateh Shahi out of the District.¹ That gentleman reported to the Government the zeal and meritorious behaviour of Dhujju Singh, and the Governor-General was pleased to send for Dhujju Singh to Benares, bestowed on him a *khelat* of gold cloth and the usual habitments with many other distinguished marks of his favour, and promised that when the Governor-General would return to Patna he would dismiss him with further honorary rewards, and at the same time ordering the Dewan, Canto Babu, to furnish whatever he might require for his expenses. The Governor-General then went to Bijugarh, and when he returned from thence to Calcutta, Dhujju Singh intended to have gone with him, but owing to the wounds he had received in the battles he was unable to do so. When the Governor-General reached Calcutta he issued orders to Mr. Grome directing him to pay a pension of Rs. 200 per month for the maintenance of Dhujju Singh and the widows and orphans of those killed or wounded in the fight."

¹ There still exist at Baragaon the tombs of the European officers killed in this fight. There is no tablet on them denoting their names.

The rebellion of Chait Singh was quelled, peace and tranquility restored, and yet we find till 1785 Fateh Shahi at large, the terror of the surrounding countries and the source of troubles to British Government, and the local authorities were afraid to grant the Raj to the next heir, Babu Mahesh Dutt Shahi, the son of Basant Shahi, lest he should obstruct the collections and repeat towards the son the same atrocities which he had perpetrated on the father.

Before ascending the funeral pyre with her husband's head on her lap, the wife of Basant Shahi entrusted her only minor son to the care of Babu Dhujju Singh, of Bhurthoohi, a Rajput feudal lord of great influence under the Husainpur Raj, and he served as guardian of the minor with fidelity proverbial to his race. He saw the best way to secure the interest of his ward was to carry out loyally the wishes of the British Government and set his face against the murderer of his father. With this view he expended all that he was worth and borrowed to the full extent of his credit, in raising a body of troops. With these men and Mahesh Dutt Shahi by his side, he was night and day with Captain Coxe traversing the woods in pursuit of Fateh Shahi, and earned the good-will of the local authorities for himself and his master. The Revenue Council of Patna in their letter to the Governor-General in Council, dated 17th April, 1778, recommended, that "Fateh Shahi should be declared to have forfeited his zemindary, and that it should be bestowed on the young Mahesh Dutt Shahi, and that some villages should be added to the *taluka* of Dhujju Singh who should be declared the Dewan." To this recommendation the Governor-General in Council wrote in reply: "We have attentively considered your recommendations of Mahesh Dutt and Dhujju Singh but do not think it proper at this time to comply with them. You may inform them that, when, with their assistance, we shall have apprehended the person of Fateh Shahi, we shall pay proper attention to their pretensions and services." (*Vide Appendix*).

With the return of a settled state of things in 1785, Fateh Shahi though still at large, and in the enjoyment of that portion of his zemindaries which was situated in the district of Gorakhpur in the dominions of the Nawab of Oudh, left off his predatory life and peacefully settled himself down, perhaps finding in despair all his attempts to gain independence only to prove futile. He became in 1808 a *fakir* after leading the life of a Robin Hood continuously for 18 years and a retired life for 24 years. It was the constant endeavours of his sons to regain the good-will of the British authorities in order to recover their lost patrimony. In 1790 the youngest son petitioned before Mr. Montgomerie, the Settlement Officer of Saran, to be allowed to settle for the revenue of the

Husainpur Raj on behalf of Fateh Shahi, and the claim was treated inadmissible. Similar applications were also made in 1816 and 1821 with the same result. In June 1829 the great-grandson of Fateh Shahi brought a regular suit for the recovery of the Raj, and it was dismissed as barred by limitation. A similar claim was again set up in 1848 with the like result.

In 1784 when Fateh Shahi had commenced to quietly settle down, Babu Mahesh Dutt again applied for a *Sanad* for the zemindary of Husainpur, and the Government wrote in reply to the Committee of Revenue, in their letter dated 2nd November, 1784, saying, that should they think it advisable to invest the petitioner with the zemindary of Husainpur, it should be done on the expressed conditions of his effectually suppressing the depredations of Fateh Shahi, and if possible delivering up his person to Government within the term of one year. At the same time they inserted a clause in his *Sanad* to the effect that, in the event of his failing in obtaining these ends either from negligence or any other cause, that might be deemed unsatisfactory by Government, upon a report thereof which the Committee was directed to make to Government on the expiration of the current Behar year, he would subject himself to immediate dispossession with the loss of every interest which he might hold in the land in question. (*Vide* Appendix). When the Government accordingly was about to confer upon Babu Mahesh Dutt Shahi the Husainpur Raj he died in 1785 A.D. It is said that the astrologers having predicted that Babu Mahesh Dutt's lease of life was only for 22 years, his guardian Dhujju Singh hastened to marry him at an early age with the daughter of the Chainpur Babu, in order that he might have an issue to continue his line;¹ and requested the Babu to send the bride to the bridegroom's house within the year of the marriage, which was contrary to his family custom. The bride's father sent a haughty answer of refusal, whereupon Dhujju Singh had Mahesh Dutt married again at once for the second time to a poor country girl who gave birth² to a posthumous child, afterwards Maharaja Chattradhari

¹ In this marriage of the orphan Mahesh Dutt Shahi, the ceremony called "*Imli Ghotna*," by which the matron of the house, placing the bridegroom on her lap, has to taste a mango leaf chewed by him, was performed by Dhujju Singh's wife. Dhujju Singh's descendants are therefore to some extent looked down by their jealous clansmen who erroneously allege they have lost their caste thereby.

² It is said that when the bride was being taken to the bridegroom's house in a Palki, a big cobra with upraised hood interposed at a place, south of the present Hutwa, and would not let the Palki pass. The astrologers were consulted and they declared this to be an auspicious omen, showing that the bride would be the mother of a mighty ruler who would bring the country under one umbrella **इचधारी-राजा**. Hence the Maharaja was so named.

Shahi Bahadur, about two months after Babu Mahesh Dutt's demise. On the 21st January, 1791, the Government of Lord Cornwallis on the recommendation of the local authorities conferred on Chattradhari Shahi, the minor son of Mahesh Dutt Shahi, the confiscated estate of Husainpur. But as the grantee was then only five years of age the estate passed under the protection of the Court of Wards, then recently formed, Dhujju Singh continuing to be the guardian of the minor. In 1802 Chattradhari Shahi attained majority and came into actual possession of his zemindaries. He now shifted from Bhurthuhee, where he and his late father lived so long under Dhujju Singh's protection, and founded the present seat of Hutwa¹ where he built his palace and fort surrounded with moats, and granted to Babu Dhujju Singh as jagir the village Hutwa Boojrook (meaning the guardian of Hutwa), which was named after his own capital. But the title of "Maharaja Bahadur" was not conferred on him till 1837, that is, until Fateh Shahi, of whom it may be said—

"He left a name at which the world grew pale,
To paint a moral or adorn a tale"

was no more heard of for several years; for it appears to have been thought that there could not be two Maharajas of Husainpur as long as Fateh Shahi was alive. It was on the 27th February, 1837, that the Government of Lord Auckland conferred on him the title of Maharaja Bahadur with the usual *khelat*, and the *peshkas* of Rs. 50,000 paid by him on this occasion was placed at the disposal of the General Committee of Public Instruction to be disposed of in the interest of education. (*Vide* Appendix).

Maharaja Chattradhari Shahi rendered valuable assistance to the British Government during the Santhal rebellion by placing his resources at the disposal of Government and promptly executing the order of the district authorities. But the most conspicuous services rendered by him to British Government were in the stormy days of the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58. "Throughout the crisis," wrote the Collector and Magistrate of Saran, Mr. Richardson, "the Raja proved himself a staunch ally of the British Government; his loyalty was never for a moment doubted, and from the very outset of the rebellion the whole of his resources

¹ Evidently Mr. W. Hoey is wrong in identifying Hutwa with Hastigrāma (*Journal, A.S.B., Vol. LXIX, Part I, No. 1, Page 80, of 1900*). From my personal knowledge I am in a position to say that all that he had heard of the late Raja of Hutwa's enclosing the ground near Sewan Station is a pure myth. The spot was intended for a tenting-ground near the station, as he had to make a drive of 14 miles from and to Sewan station and Hutwa. No Brahmin had ever spoken to him disparagingly of the spot, nor is his death attributed to his enclosing it.

were placed at the disposal of the authorities in the district for the preservation of peace and order.” (*Vide Appendix*). When the Mutiny broke out in the district of Shahabad and Gorakhpur in June, 1857, the Maharaja, an old man of seventy, at once put himself in communication with the local authorities, engaged a large contingent of armed men with which he guarded all the ghâts and private houses of Government officials, and sometimes fought with the rebels. “The effect of this active measure,” as described by the Collector to the Commissioner in the letter dated the 18th March, 1858, “was that whilst the Gorakhpur district was temporarily abandoned to anarchy and rapine, not a village on the Saran side of the boundary became the scene of disorder.” (*Vide Appendix*). When a large body of mutineers appeared at Subhanpur, near Sewan, the Maharaja assisted the sub-divisional Officer, Mr. Lynch, with horses and men, fought the rebels and gained a signal victory.¹ It is indeed a pity that the historians of the Indian Mutiny, while they have indulged in enumerating petty and minor details, have entirely omitted to make any mention of the service rendered by this Maharaja of Hutwa.

An internal rising forms an episode in Maharaja Chattradhari Shahi's time. A brahmin of Bhore, named Bujhawan Misir, became very powerful, having been aided by the ever-turbulent Rajputs of the place who are called “Khans.” Bujhawan Misir claimed the whole country on the other side of the Jherai river to be his *brit* (Brahmottar), even the forts of Husainpur. Each time the Maharaja's troops sent to dispossess him were beaten back—in fact Bujhawan Misir held the country in such terror for some time that no one from the Hutwa side could dare cross the Jherai.² At last the Maharaja had to seek the help of the Government, and Bujhawan was dispossessed of the country and killed by the troops of Government. There were also constant fights with the Bettiah Raj about demarcation of boundaries between the two Estates, and thousands of both sides were killed.

¹ These mutineers had looted the Government treasury and the public offices in Muzaffarpur District, but being repulsed therefrom had proceeded to Sewan. “On the following morning the troops broke out in open mutiny. Headed by Jarif Khan they robbed the Monghyr Mail and plundered the Collector's house. They then attacked the Treasury and Jail, but the Police and najibs stood to their posts and drove them off, on which they decamped towards Aliganj Sewan.”—(Sir J. Kaye's *History of the Sepoy War*, Vol. III.)

² Thus sang the bard “राजा भैले रजवली सिपाही भैले धनीया । लड़े ले बुझावन मिशिर दलकेले दुनीया ।” “The Raja was reduced to diminutive, and his soldiers were reduced to the position of a cotton-dresser, while Bujhawan Misir fought making the earth tremble under his feet.”

Maharaja Chattradhari Shahi was a great patron of Sanskrit learning. He retained in his Durbar learned pandits from Mithila and Benares, and other places amongst whom, before he became a Sanyasi, was the renowned Ram Niranjan Svami, the greatest *Savant* of India at that age, who survived even Maharaja Rajendra Pratap Shahi, successor of Maharaja Chattradhari Shahi. He had opened a Sanskrit school in charge of the said *Savant*, wherein nearly 1,000 students from all parts of India received education and were fed by the Raj. With such veneration was this *Savant* held by the Hutwa Maharajas, that the late Maharaja Sir Krishna Pratap Shahi Bahadur had specially indented from France a jewelled *Sirpech* (aigrette) containing an enamelled image of this *Savant*, and had named his son and heir, the present Maharaj Kumar, after his monastic nomenclature and had published a beautiful biography.

Maharaja Chattradhari Shahi was an able and excellent administrator. He considerably enlarged his Raj and with it its income. The whole villages on the borders of the Gandak and Gogra now possessed by the Raj he got from the Babus of Pursa on their downfall. He died on the 16th March, 1858, leaving, it is said, behind him about 40 lakhs of Rupees in the treasury, the greater portion of which is said to have been squandered away¹ by his successor in the great Hutwa case, and the rest invested in the purchase of jewellery of the deposed-king of Oudh. The fruit of his Mutiny services was enjoyed by his successor, Maharaja Rajendra Pratap Shahi, who obtained a perpetual jagir in Shahabad district out of the confiscated estates of the rebel Kuar Singh, then yielding an annual rental of Rs. 20,000, having continued to tread in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, Maharaja Chattradhari Shahi, in rendering valuable assistance to Government in the suppression of the Mutiny. (*Vide Appendix*).

The two sons of the Maharaja Chattradhari Shahi having died before their father, it was the turn of Maharaj-Kumar Ugra Pratap Shahi, the father of Rajendra Pratap Shahi to succeed; but Maharaja Chattradhari Shahi having left a will and expressed his intention before his death that Rajendra Pratap, the son of Ugra Pratap, was to succeed him, Ugra Pratap Shahi waived his claim in favour of his son who was installed Maharaja in 1858. (*Vide Appendix*). The two sons of the second son of Maharaja Chattradhari Shahi, Babu Tilakdhari Shahi,

¹ So extravagant was his successor, Maharaja Rajendra Pratap Shahi, that in his *shikar* in the Terrai Jungles, where he stayed for six months, his camp equipages consisted of 60 elephants, several big Zemindars related to him, and also many dancing girls—nay even his own Bazar to supply *rasads* to retinues and camp-followers and equal number of advancing tents (*Pesh-khima*) for the next stage.

and Babu Bir Pratap Shahi, thereupon laid claim for the partition of the Raj on the plea that the estate was an ordinary zemindary. Their suit at first was tried by the District Court of Saran; but Babu Tilak Dhari Shahi withdrew his claim on a compromise, having got by it some villages for his maintenance (*Khorish*); but Babu Bir Pratap Shahi whose claim was dismissed by the District Court carried it on to the High Court of Calcutta and then to the Privy Council, which settled for good that the Hutwa Raj still, as it was before Maharaja Fateh Shahi's defection, is an impartible Raj, descendible under *Kulācā* to the eldest son, to the exclusion of all younger brothers who were only to get a maintenance, and fixed Rs. 1,000 as monthly pension for Babu Bir Pratap Shahi's maintenance. (*Vide* the extracts of judgments enclosed.)

Maharaja Rajendra Pratap Shahi died in 1871, leaving an only minor son of 15, the late Maharaja Sir Krishna Pratap Shahi Bahadur, K.C.I.E., and the Court of Wards took up for the second time the administration of the Hutwa Raj. He attained majority in 1874, and was installed as Maharaja Bahadur in August of that year at Chupra at a grand Durbar by the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Richard Temple. He received a medal of distinction struck in commemoration of the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to India in 1874-75, and another in 1877 at the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi on the proclamation of Her Most Gracious Majesty the late Queen Victoria as Empress of India. In 1889 he was created, unsolicited, a Knight Commander of the Exalted Order of the Indian Empire.

When the memorable cow-riot broke out at Basantpur in 1894, the Officiating Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Anthony Macdonald, wired to the Maharaja saying that he depended on him in restoring peace in the district. The Maharaja immediately despatched all his *Sowars*, Sepoys, and Carbineers to help the Commissioner, Mr. Forbes, stationed there in quelling the riot. In such high esteem was he held by that distinguished officer, Sir Anthony Macdonald, that in one of his letters he wrote to him in the following strain: "There is no nobleman in these provinces whose approbation I value more highly than yours, and very few so high, and there is no one from whom I should be so glad to receive, now and then, an expression of opinion on general topics."

He was allowed by the Government of India, on the recommendation of the then Collector, Mr. Bourdillon (now Sir James Austin Bourdillon, late Officiating Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal), who had remarked that he could safely trust the Maharaja's loyalty and fidelity, to indent sixty muskets with bayonets from England for his retainers in lieu of those old and worn out.

He was a great patron of Sanskrit learning, himself being a very

good Sanskrit scholar. Pandits from Bengal and Benares, nay even from the Bombay Presidency, have got munificent donations from him. Rare and important works in Sanskrit he got to be edited or translated by the Pandits at a great cost, simply for distribution. Among these is a monumental work on vedic rituals, *Pāraskara Gṛhya Sūtra* with several commentaries which issued from the press just when he was on his death-bed, and which he had prefaced with a brief narration of his family history in metrical Sanskrit. He was himself the author of a book of songs called *Soka-Mudgara*, composed on the death of his first son. His Sanskrit Library contains numerous rare and valuable MSS., all collected during his life time, which were examined by the Asiatic Society of Bengal and were eulogised by its President, Sir Charles Elliot, in his Annual Address. Although a Maharaja, he had the heart of an ascetic. So fond was he of a retired life that he had declined several times the offered seats in the Government Legislative Councils. No sooner he ascended the *Gaddi* after the Court of Wards' regime, he set out for a pilgrimage and travelled through almost the whole of Northern India. Later on he used to pass the greater part of the year in the associations of the *Pandits* and learned *Sadhus* at Benares, where he had built palatial buildings, temples, and *chetras*, endowing in perpetuity suitable sums for their maintenance. The Lion of the Punjab, Ranjit Singh, had plated the dome of the Bisvanath's temple at Benares with gold, and the late Maharaja of Hutwa had plated the reservoir of the image within with thick silver, costing nearly a lakh of Rupees. With a true maternal veneration he set apart a portion of his Raj in perpetuity, yielding an income of Rs. 20,000 for the maintenance of the beautiful temple of Gopalji constructed by his late mother. Finding the Brahmins in the Raj in a state of moral depravity he revived the Sanskrit School of Chattradhari Shahi which had dwindled away in his predecessor's time.

He was equally charitable in works of public utility. He excavated numerous large tanks, built on them masonry ghâts with slopes for cattle to drink water, opened many new roads, constructed thousands of wells and embankments for tenants, and set apart extensive mango-gardens for the public to enjoy their fruits. Each winter he used to distribute some thousands of blankets only to the old, decrepit, blind, and lame, and to such as were incapacitated for work. It was his express order that old horses and cattle must not be made to work, but be fed as superannuated human pensioners as long as they lived. Himself being very candid and upright, he always loved fair and square dealings in all transactions. It was his strict orders to pay salary of all his servants on the very first of every month, and he never liked to

hear that he owed any debt to anybody. Although an oriental aristocrat to the back-bone he patronised both primary and high educations. He established a free Entrance School in the Raj with a scholarship for the successful student to prosecute the higher standard, and opened numerous primary schools in the interior of the Raj to impart liberally a free education to his tenants. He fully appreciated the meritorious services of his servants and often encouraged them with handsome rewards. The kindly feelings he entertained towards them might well be exhibited from his telegram of condolence on the death of his faithful *Dewan*, Babu Bhubaneswar Dutt, at his residence at Chandernagore, to his nephew Babu Devendra Nath Dutt, the present *Dewan* of the Maharani: "My heart bleeds to hear of your uncle's death. The loss is irreparable to the Hutwa Raj. You have got your uncle alive in me. It is I whose uncle is lost."

In July, 1890, the Maharaja lost his first son, a child of weak constitution, and the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Stuart Bayley, in his letter of condolence to the Maharaja, wrote: "The loss of the only heir to one of the historical houses of Behar is what I consider a public calamity."

It is during the *regime* of the late Maharaja Sir Krishna Pratap Shahi that the prosperity of the Hutwa Raj has reached a point unknown to any of his predecessors. The architectural aspect of the town of Hutwa was immensely beautified by the erection of numerous magnificent buildings with high towered gates and a long line of barracks on their wings, facing in front an extensive and tastefully laid out park, stud with marble statues and fountains, thus imparting an idea of beauty mingled with sublimity. The new palace named after him, Krishna Bhaban, with its magnificently furnished and decorated Durbar Hall which is daintily painted and gilded, and glittering with tastefully arranged numerous splendid crystal chandeliers, with its painted door-panes bearing Shakesperean characters, and its walls hung with oil-paintings of all the crowned kings of Europe and two big life-size portraits—one of the late Queen Empress and the other of himself attended with his faithful *dewan*, the late Babu Bhubaneswar Dutt—facing each other, is indeed a work of art and is said to be one of the most picturesque buildings in India. The resources of the Raj had so considerably developed in his time that the rent-roll which was eight lakhs when he was a minor under the Court of Wards had risen to twelve lakhs of Rupees, and this not by any illicit enhancement but after a survey and preparation of a regular and systematic record of rights initiated by the Court of Wards.¹ It is interesting to know that

¹ While at this stage of my writing I was fortunate enough to make a very im-

at his death he left behind him in the two strong-holds of his fort 55 lakhs of rupees in hard cash, notwithstanding the additions made by him in his richly stocked jewellery room, *Howdakhana* and *Toshakhana*, which including the amount spent in buildings and six

portant discovery throwing much light on the dark period of some of the Rajas before Fateh Shahi. It is the Lakhraj Register of the Raj prepared in 1793 A.D. by the Government Deputy Collectors appointed to enquire into the Lakhraj land in the country for the Permanent Settlements, and which formed the *Magna Charta* of the Brahmins during the preparation of the Record of Rights subsequently by the Court of Wards in the minority of the late Maharaja Sir Krishna Pratap Shahi under the then most distinguished Manager, the late Mr. George James Spence Hodgkinson, I.C.S., C.S.I., (afterwards Commissioner of the Arakan Division, and some time Chief Commissioner of Lower Burma), who had not only sown seeds of Hutwa's present prosperity but had implanted in the heart of the minor in his charge noble ideas and principles which had hereafter made him so successful an administrator and an exemplary chief in all respects. This Lakhraj Register records the *Sanads* for *Brt* lands granted or alleged to have been granted by the Maharajas of Hutwa. But on a careful examination of this record I was sadly disappointed to find it to be not of that value as was expected, as only in some instances the period found therein coincided with the dates assigned by me, calculated at the rate of 25 years; and in other cases the said register proved itself to be wholly unreliable. For instance there is one grant of the 89th Maharaja in the line, Maharaja Sangram Shahi Bahadur (the oldest one in that register), dated 1013 F.S. = 1606 A.D., granted to Gossain Madhoram of village Chowchukka, Muth Madho, and another of the same Maharaja, dated so late as 1145 F.S. = 1738 A.D., given to Parsram Sukul of village Brindaban, thus giving the Maharaja's lease of life for more than 132 years, although there are many *Sanads* of the period intervening and given by the Maharajas succeeding him. Yet both these *Sanads* have been accepted and registered! There also appears one most glaringly false *Sanad* which the *Amin* preparing the register notes as having been declared to him (*Sūrat ḥāl*) to be of 1169 F.S. = 1762 A.D. *i.e.* (five years before Fateh Sahi's rebellion) and given by Maharaja Kalyan Mall to one Harkumar Baus Tewari of Khajooraha Tuppa Bagahi, and on the face of its spuriousness this has been accepted and registered! There also appear many *Sanads* in which the heirs-apparent styling themselves Maharajas have been alleged to have granted lands in their fathers' (the real Maharajas) life-time, which could hardly have been the case. On the nature of these *Sanads* Mr. Hodgkinson had reported to Government thus: "The number of illicit *Brts* claimed is simply astounding." From this it is palpable that the present Maharaja and his ancestors have been deprived of a very large portion of their just rent by the Brahmins. The survey and record of rights were prepared by inexperienced *Āmins* under these Deputy Collectors for whom it was not possible to detect those fraudulently manufactured from those genuine *sanads*. An inspection of these *Sanads* might have been very useful for the history of the Raj, but unfortunately I have not that power and position now in the Raj which I once had to induce the possessors to allow me to have a look.

By the 25 years' rule I have ascribed the date of the 25th Raja, Maharaja Jubraj Shahi, to be 1719 A.D. In the Lakhraj Register I find one of his *Sanad* dated 1112 F.S. = 1703 A.D. given to Bholanath of Khurhurwa, and another of 1140 F.S. = 1733

lakhs of rupees given away on the birth of his first son, and a lakh spent in the marriage of the present Maharaj Kumar of Benares at Salemgarh, district Gorakhpur, in which the bridegroom's party composing of several Rajas were his guests, would equal as much as the hoard left. The Maharaja died in his forty-first year on the 20th October, 1896, leaving a son of 4 years, the present minor Maharaj Kumar, and a daughter of nearly a year; and the Court of Wards again for the third time took up the administration of the Raj, appointing the Dowager Maharani his guardian. The years of the demise of the two successive Maharajas, Rajendra Pratap Shahi and Krishna Pratap Shahi, are marked by the advent of the famines in Behar in which the Raj had to spend, on these two disastrous occasions, more than ten lakhs to relieve the distress of its tenants.

The charity and magnanimity of the present Maharani of Hutwa is proverbial. She had contributed a lakh of Rupees to the Famine Fund raised by His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Curzon, for the relief of the distressed people in Central Provinces and Rajputana, another lakh to the Victoria Memorial Fund, Rs. 50,000 to the Lady Dufferin Zenana Hospital, Rs. 30,000 to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association Fund, presided over by Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress Alexandra, Rs. 25,000 for the Chupra Charitable Hospital besides numerous minor contributions. In recognition of her catholic charity and kindly feelings towards the tenants of her Raj, Her Majesty the late Queen Empress conferred on her the Kaiser-i-hind gold medal, with which she was invested at a grand Durbar at Hutwa, in January 1902, by His Honour the late Sir John Woodburn.

The Maharajas of Hutwa are entitled to take with them within the limits of Saran district 100 armed retainers, without license and to re-

given to Samhowti Tewary of Husainpur. This proves the correctness of my date. Again I have assigned the date of the 98th Raja, Maharaja Sirdar Shahi, to be 1747. In the Lakhraj Register there is one *Sanad* by him of Aṣaḍh 1151 F.S.=1744 A.D., granted to Balkissen Ojha of Karthowli, and another of Aghan Sudi 5th, 1165 F.S.=1758, granted to Raghunath Soohool of Pankhapali. This also proves the correctness of my date.

The following are the date of grants gathered from the Lakhraj Register which could be relied on to some extent and with certain allowances :—

- 93rd Maharaja Huldul Shahi Bahadur—1644—78 A.D.
- 94th Maharaja Hargovind Shahi Bahadur—1695—1714 A.D.
- 95th Maharaja Jubraj Shahi Bahadur—170 (1 ?) 5—38 A.D.
- 96th Maharaja Chet Shahi Bahadur—1737—58 (?) A. D.
- 97th Maharaja Kurtal Shahi Bahadur—(no mention)
- 98th Maharaja Sirdar Shahi—1744—1758 (Cf. above).

tain in their possession a gun and have the privilege of private entrée to Government House.

The annexed table shows the area and income together with other particulars of the Raj. The main portion consists of a compact block of the most fertile tract in the District of Saran:—

Districts in which the property is situated.	Number of villages in each.	Area.	Population.	Total Rent-roll.	Government Revenue.		Cesses.	
					Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
1. Saran	1,350	Sq. Miles. 670	534,905	Rs. 11,81,469	Rs. 1,97,685	A. P. 11 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	Rs. 69,894	A. P. 5 0
2. Champaran ...	24							
3. Muzafferpore ...	11							
4. Shahabad ...	15							
5. Gorakhpore ...	4							
6. Patna ...	} 1							
7. Benares								
8. Darjeeling								
9. Calcutta ...								
Total... ..	1,404 ¹	670	534,905	11,81,469 ²	1,97,685	11 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	69,894	5 0

APPENDIX.

To

THOMAS GRAHAM, ESQ.,

Acting President and Member of the Board of Revenue,

Fort William.

SIR,

I beg leave to report to you the death of Dujjoo Singh who received a pension of Rs. 190-8-0 per mensem, and also to transmit

¹ The Raj has got only house properties in these districts.

² Besides these 30 new villages in Saran have been recently purchased by the Court of Wards, the area, population and rentroll of which have not been exactly known.

³ Besides this, the Raj has an annual income of Rs. 1,96,448 as interest in Government Papers and Municipal Debentures, etc., of the portion of the hoarded money of the late Maharaja invested by the present Court of Wards.

herewith a copy and translation of a Petition presented to me by Lall Singh, Shah Singh, and Gauree Singh, sons of the deceased, soliciting a continuance of the allowance, which I beg leave to submit for the consideration and orders of His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor-General in Council.

2.—The particulars of the case are so fully set forth in the Petition, that I do not deem it necessary to trouble the Board with my further observations on it than to mention that the circumstances of the zeal and good conduct of Dujjoo Singh and his adherents in the expulsion of the rebel Fatteh Sahi from the Company's Territories is notorious, as well as his steady attachment to the English interest during the troubles at Benares, and that it was in a great measure owing to the exertions of himself and his followers that this district was saved from devastation and ruinous consequences of the predatory incursion of Fatteh Shahi's Banditti.

3.—As it would appear that the sons and adherents of Dujjoo Singh were, with himself, wholly supported by the pension they received from Government, and as there is every reason to believe that their numerous family will be reduced to the greatest distress from the resump-tions, I take the liberty of recommending the prayer of their Petition to the liberality of Government.

I have, etc.,
(Sd.) R. GRAHAM,
Acting Collector.

Zillah Saran,

The 11th July, 1805.

*Translation of a Petition from Lall Singh, Shah Singh, and Gauree Singh,
sons of Dujjoo Singh, deceased.*

In 1189 Fussilly, when the Governor General was at Benares to punish the Rebellion of Raja Chitta Singh, ordered the different Divisions of the army, including the Battalion stationed at Burrangang in Parganah Cullianpore Koarry to join him at that place, Rajah Futteh Shahi availing himself of the opportunity afforded by their absence, came with Ajeetmall and other zamindars from Gorakhpur with a body of 20,000 men to Burrangang, and surrounding Govindram Missir, the Tahsildar of the Parganah, attacked and plundered the station. Mr. Grome, then Collector of the District, on receipt of this intelligence, wrote a purwanah to Dujjoo Singh, desiring him to join the Tahsildar and afford his assistance in driving the said Fatteh Shahi beyond the boundary of the Company's provinces. Dujjoo Singh immediately collected his adherents amounting to about 1,000 men, and after unremitting exertions for

18 days, succeeded in defeating Fattedh Shahi in battle, and at length obliged him to retreat to the jungles with the loss of many hundreds of his people who fell in the different engagements. Dujjoo Singh and his sons were also severely wounded, when Major Lucas with a reinforcement of Regular Troops came to his assistance, and uniting his forces with Dujjoo Singh, who for their gallant conduct he honoured by giving the lead in action, soon after drove Fattedh Shahi out of the district. That gentleman reported to Government the zeal and meritorious behaviour of Dujjoo Singh, and the Governor General was pleased to send for Dujjoo Singh to Benares, bestowed on him a khelat of gold cloth and the usual habitments, with many other distinguished marks of his favour, and promised that when he, the Governor-General, returned to Patna, he would dismiss him with further honorary rewards, at the same time ordering the Dewan, Canto Babu, to furnish whatever he might require for his expenses. The Governor-General then went to Bijughur, and when he returned from thence to Calcutta, Dujjoo Singh intended to have gone with him; but owing to the wounds he had received in battle, he was unable to do so. When the Governor-General reached Calcutta he issued orders to Mr. Grome directing him to pay a pension of Rs. 200 per month for the maintenance of Dujjoo Singh and ourselves, who were wounded with him, and the widows and orphans of those who had lost their lives on the occasion, the amount has been regularly paid to us to the end of Falgoon 1212, from which we and many others, the said widows and orphans of our adherents, obtained support and prayed for the Company's prosperity. At the end of Falgoon Dujjoo Singh died, when the Acting Collector, Mr. Ravenscroft, resumed the pension. Sir, Dujjoo Singh was not the only person who came forward: we were also in the engagement and were severely wounded; and the widows of our many followers who fell on the occasion are still in existence. The pension was granted both for their and our support, and the name of Dujjoo Singh was inserted only because he was our leader. Dujjoo Singh alone has paid the debt of nature. We, and many of the widows of Dujjoo Singh's deceased adherents, are still living, and our sole support is from the pension of Rs. 200 per month granted to us by Government, and by the discontinuance of it we are reduced to extreme distress. We are therefore hopeful from your goodness that the said pension may be continued and confirmed to our family; that we and the widows of our numerous deceased adherents may thereby receive a provision for their maintenance, and offer up our prayers for the prosperity of the English Government.

(A true Translation.)

(Sd.) R. GRAHAM,

Acting Collector.

To

R. GRAHAM, ESQ.,

Acting Collector, Saran.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 11th ultimo, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to acquaint you that the Governor-General-in-Council has been pleased to authorize you to continue to the sons of the late Dujjoo Singh the pension of Rs. 190-8 ans. per mensem formerly received by that person, and to discharge any arrears which may be due on that account.

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) J. C. BULLER,

*Secretary.**Revenue Board,**The 9th August, 1805.*

True Copies.

(Sd.) (*Illegible.*)*Collector.**Extracts from the Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Dept.*

Read the following letters and enclosure from the Provincial Council of Patna:—

Constituted 14th June, 1775.

To

THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ.,

Governor-General and Council of Revenue, Fort William.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

Enclosed we have the honor to transmit you a copy of a letter received from Lieutenant Erskine, who commands two companies of Sepoys in the Hossepur District, giving an account of an attack made by Fuddy Shaw on the Renter and the Superintendent of the Collections of that country, in which they were both killed. The other letters we have received from that place, confirm the circumstances mentioned by the officer, and acquaint us further, that the business is thrown into the utmost confusion by this unexpected event. We beg leave to represent to you that Fuddy Shaw was formerly the Zamindar of Hosseypur. About the end of the year 1767, he refused to pay his rents, fought the Company's Troops who were sent against him in consequence, and was with

much difficulty expelled from the country; he then withdrew into the jungles, bordering on the Vizier's dominions and the Behar Province, watching every opportunity to make incursions into the district, and to plunder the villages, by which means the collections have been constantly interrupted in 1772. He put to death one Govind Ram, the Renter of Hossepur, but as he most solemnly denied having any knowledge of that transaction, the Collector of Sarcar Sarun, finding that the rents could not be properly conducted so long as he remained in that situation, recommended to the Council that he should be induced to come in on the promise of an allowance being made him from Government. This was accordingly done; he came willingly to Patna, and, an allowance being fixed for the maintenance, he promised to remain quietly with his family in Hosseypur. Within two months, however, he withdrew again from the country and has ever since committed depredations on the district, of which we received frequent complaints from the officers of the collections; we understand he is now collecting together a body of Facquiers and other Bauditti, with a view of making further disturbance. We have thought it expedient to write to Captain Jones, who is stationed with his Battalion near that place, desiring he will take such measures as may be necessary to protect the country and prevent the desertion of the raiyats. As he takes protection in the dominions of the Nabab Asoph-ud-Dowla, it will not be practicable to seize his person without the assistance of the Nabab's Phousdar in the Gorackpur District. We have, therefore, desired the Chief to represent the circumstances to the Nabab through Mr. Bristow, and to request His Excellency will give the necessary orders to his people. Thus far we have thought fit to proceed for the immediate security of the country, and beg to be favoured with your orders, if you deem it proper, to take any other measures for getting Fuddy Shaw into our hands.

Bussant Shaw was the farmer of Hossepur, and Rajah Cheyt Singh security for him in the payment of his rents.

We are, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servants,

(Sd.) ISAAC SAGE.

„ SIMEON DROZ.

„ EWAN LAW.

„ EDWARD GOLDING.

„ WM. YOUNG.

Camp at Burrah Gaun, 4th May, 1775; Patna, the 8th May, 1775.

To

MR. ISAAC SAGE,

Chief of the Provincial Council of Revenue.

SIR,

Last night, about sunset, I received a letter from Meer Mogul informing me that Futtu Shaw, early in the morning, had surprised Meer Jammaul and Babu Basanta Shaw at Jadapur, a village 6 coss from Burrah Gang, and that he had murdered them with most of their attendants. He requested I would hasten to Burrah Gang that I might prevent his coming there. I immediately marched with the detachment from Sewan and arrived here about 10 o'clock. At night I received certain intelligence that Futtu Shaw after putting the poor defenceless people to death and plundering their effects, immediately fled with the booty into the Perg. Jugginee Jungle, where it seems his family is, and which is in Mirza Maun's District. As Meer Mogul writes you the particulars of this affair by the bearer, it would be a needless repetition in me to mention them, as I have only heard them from him. Both Meer Jammaul and Babu Basanta Shaw were lulled into such an opinion of security by Futtu Shaw's fair promises, that they did not apprehend the smallest danger from him. Even the night before their death, they received a letter from him, informing them that he was within 3 coss of them and that they need not dread any destruction from him, as he was only going to see his family at Perg. Jugginee. This I am informed of by some of the wounded people who made their escape and are just arrived here. They say that Futtu Shaw had about 25 horsemen and 200 or 300 matchlock fellows with him. Had the two companies been stationed at the place, I cannot see how the melancholy accident could have been prevented. As you positively forbid me to pursue either him or the Nourannees into Miza Maun's District, I am almost certain he will always take care to keep out of my reach.

Permit me to give it as my opinion that unless you order a body of troops to follow and drive him out of the Perg. Jugginee Jungle, that after carrying matters to such a length he will prove a constant pest to the inhabitants hereabout. By what I can learn there are so many avenues into the jungle that it will take at least a battalion of sepoy to block them up and pursue him in it with any prospect of advantage. I have sent Hircarrahas to bring me positive intelligence where he is, and if requisite shall remove the detachment for the protection of the raiyats to wherever it may be necessary.

I have not recalled the detachment from Somewell as, if I was to

do so, the Nourannees in all probability would make some disturbance in that part of the country.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) JOHN ERSKINE,

Lieut., 16th Battalion of Sepoys.

The bearer was present when Meer Jammaul and Babu Basanta Shaw were killed, and will give you the particulars.

(A true copy.)

(Sd.) SHEARMAM BIRD,

Secretary.

Petition of Syed Golam. Translation of the representation of Syud Golam Mustofa Khawn.

“My elder brother Syed Jammal Mahomed of Bokhara was employed to collect the Revenues in the pargana of Hosseypur in the Sircar of Sarun. Rajah Futteh Shaw, who had been long absent from the country, suddenly made an incursion from the jungles with a body of a thousand horsemen and peons in the night time of the 1st of Rubbee-ul-Awul in the 14th year of the King’s reign, and killed my brother with Basant Shaw, the Zamin-dar, and many others, and carried off whatever horses, camels, ready money, effects he had and part of the Government’s Treasure. I pray that the offender may be punished, and that my brother and his people may obtain redress, and then in future I shall know no other protector or person to apply to for justice in this country excepting yourself.”

Agreed that the Governor-General and Council be requested to write to the Nabab of Oude and Mr. Bristow that the persons found to be concerned in the murder may be apprehended.

Read the following letters and enclosure from the Provincial Council of Patna.—

To

THE HON’BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ.,

Governor-General in Council in the Revenue Department,

Fort William.

HON’BLE SIR AND SIRS,

We have been favoured with your letter of the 24th ultimo, and have, agreeable to your orders, summoned such of the parties as are now in Patna to appear before us. We before acquainted you that some of the parties with their sunnuds were still in Calcutta, and have to request you will be pleased to order them to return here to appear in their defence, when we shall enter upon the cause, and transmit you a copy of our pro-

ceedings thereon. The enclosed copy of a letter from Lieutenant Harding, who was ordered to co-operate with Fouzdar of Gorackpur in the Vizier's dominions for seizing Fuddy Shaw, the rebellious Zamindar of Hosseypur, will evince to you the little regard that has hitherto been paid to the Nabob's orders on that subject; and we cannot avoid observing on this occasion, that it is so much the interest of the officers employed by His Excellency in that part of the country to let this man remain in the state he is, that we can never expect any effectual assistance from them. Fuddy Shaw holds the zamindari of Perg. Jugginee in Sircar Gorackpur adjoining to the district of Hosseypur, and from the collusion which has always prevailed between him and the different Aumils of the Nabab in that country, we have reason to believe that the Nabab himself is defrauded of his just revenue at the same time that Fuddy Shaw secures to himself a retreat and keeps himself the whole District of Hosseypur in a continual alarm. The Zamin-daries of Perg. Jugginee and Hosseypur were some years ago held under the same Collector, and the Nabab's officers received their revenue from the Aumil of Hosseypur, till the former found it more to their own private advantage to separate them. Should this expedient be again adopted, it would, we apprehend, be more likely than any other to effect the purpose of securing the person of Fuddy Shaw by destroying his influence in the only place where he now finds protection.

The present farmer of Hosseypur, we understand, would readily engage, and give security for the regular payment of the rents of that part of Fuddy Shaw's zamindari in the Nabab's dominions, on a fair and reasonable adjustment, taken either from a medium of the last four or five years, or from a new and equitable valuation. As this proposal tends equally to the advantage of the Nobabs collections, as to remove the evil which has so long been experienced in the Company's District of Husseypur we are induced to recommend it to your consideration. In our correspondence some months ago with the Resident of the Nobab's Court, we proposed this measure, but as it was not then consented to, we apprehend the Fauzdar of Gorakhpur was referred to by His Excellency, and from the motives already mentioned prevailed on the Nobab to decline it. The usual valuation is about twenty-five thousand rupees.

We are,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient servants,

(Sd.) EWAN LAW.

„ EDW. GOLDING.

„ WM. YOUNG. (Copy)

To

Patna, the 6th February, 1777.

SIMEON DROZ, Esq.,

Chief of the Revenue Council at Patna.

SIR,

By this you will perceive I am returned to Baragong with my Detachment. As I was directed by you only to co-operate with Syed Mahomed in the attack of Fuddy Shaw, I could by no means act as a principal. Seven days my detachment was with his camp every hour in expectations of coming to an action with the rebel; at last I even persuaded him to march within a hundred-and-fifty yards of his entrenchments, thinking a push must then inevitably have been made towards seizing Fuddy Shaw, but whether his troops were averse to engaging in a jungle, I will nor cannot pretend to say, but certain it is that not a man of them advanced a yard further. At this period a person came to me from Syed Mohammed Khan requesting the attack might be postponed till the morning. As I thought this was the last push I would make to force him to act with me, and at that very time finding he was on the eve of settling his revenue-matters with the rebel, instead of abiding by his promise, I that instant thought proper to march my detachment to Baragong, as I am confident your intentions were for me to assist him in the attack and not to collect the Nabab's revenue. Had Syed Mohammed Khan and his Council ever fully determined to drive the rebel out of the Perg. Jagnee, he would then have exerted himself to the utmost, for in my opinion there was not the smallest probability of our being defeated, but every likelihood in the world of our succeeding; and I am afraid (unless you consent to our attacking him with the Company's troops only, and allow a greater force than I at present command, with a gun) we shall never meet with so great an opportunity as this time has afforded.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient, humble servant,

(Sd.) T. HARDING,

*Lieut., 5th Battalion Sepoys.**Camp Barragong, 29th January 1777.*(Sd.) SHEARMAN BIRD, *Secretary.*

(A true copy).

Extract from a letter to the Chief and Provincial Council of Revenue at Patna, dated the 1st July, 1777.

Para 5, 6th February.—The season of the year is too far advanced to send a military force on a fresh attempt to seize Fuddy Shaw, but we

recommend it to you to endeavour by all possible means to surprise him, and if you judge that it may be the means of effecting this, we authorise you to offer, by proclamation, a reward of ten thousand rupees to any person who shall either apprehend him or point out the place of his residence so that he shall be apprehended.

Agreed that Captain Coxe be written as follows:—

Const., 13th January, 1778.

To

CAPTAIN COXE,

Commanding the Battalion at Bagga.

SIR,

We direct that when you shall receive notice from Mr. Middleton, that the Nabab of Oude has complied with our requisition to him to divest Futtay Shaw and his family of the Zemindary of Husseypore, you will march your Battalion to Gorruckpore, and use your utmost endeavours, in conjunction with the force which the Nabab may employ upon this occasion both to apprehend Futtay Shaw and to put the person in possession of the Zemindary to whom the Nabab shall grant it.

Terrl. Depmt :
The 7th December, 1821. }

(Sd.) Not legible.

Secretary to the Government.

(True extracts.)

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Governor-General in Council
in the Revenue Department, dated the 17th April, 1778.*

*Extract from a letter from the Revenue Council of Patna, dated 2nd
April, 1778.*

We have received petitions from Mohesh Dutt, the son of Babu Boshunt Shaw, who was a relation of Futtay Shaw and murdered by him when renter of Husseypore, and from Dhujjoo Singh, a Talookdar of that District, who has long acted as partizan against the rebel and been wounded in the service, and is recommended by Captain Coxe for his activity and the assistance which he has afforded him, praying that their title to some recompense for their losses and services may be taken into consideration, which we have to lay before you.

We have before mentioned to you the distressed circumstances of Mohesh Dutt. Instead of any allowance which we before recommended, we would now rather propose that Futtay Shahi should be declared to have forfeited his Zemindary, and that it should be bestowed on this young man, that some villages should be declared to have forfeited his

Zemindary, and that it should be bestowed on this young man, that some villages should be added to the talooka of Dhujjoo Singh, and that he should be declared the Dewan. In justice to Moulvi Meer Gulam Mustapha, the present Collector in Husseypore, we must observe that his brother Meer Jummaul was also assassinated by the rebel, and the family by that means reduced to very necessitous circumstances. A small Jaigir would perhaps be their best method of support, and this might be formed chiefly of waste land at present yielding little revenue to the Company.

(Copy.)

PETITION OF MOHESH DUTT, SON OF BASANT SHAW.

My father, Baboo Basant Shahi, was employed by Government and spent his days in their service, and since his demise, I have not been deficient in my duty to the Company, and am now with my guardian, Dhujjoo Singh, opposing the arms of the rebel Futtay Shahi, who is attended by the ryots and renters of the Pergannahs who accompany him, buoyed up with the hopes of seeing more prosperous days in future.

My grandfather and Futtay Shahi's father were own brothers. I am therefore by this alliance entitled to the Zemindary of these Pergannahs which I request you will grant to me; and the ryots who now wait upon the rebel will then repair to me, and give up all future prospect from that quarter, and after a deduction of the collections made by the rebellious Raja, I am willing to enter into engagements adequate to the produce, and undertake the management of the revenue.

(A true copy.)

(Sd.) Lt. CRUSS-LAPLANT,

Secretary.

Extracts of a letter to the Provincial Council at Patna, dated the 17th April, 1778.

Para 8.—We have attentively considered your recommendations of Mahesh Dutt, Dhujjoo Singh and Moulvi Meer Gulam Mustapha, but do not think it proper at this time to comply with them. You may inform them that when, with their assistance, we shall have apprehended the person of Futtay Shahi, we shall pay proper attention to their pretensions and services.

Terrl. Depmt : }
The 18th August, 1829. }

(Sd.) W. M. TILGHMAN,
Offg. Deputy Secretary to Government.

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Governor-General in Council
in the Revenue Department, dated the 26th May, 1784.*

Read the following petitions of Mohesh Dutt Shaw, and paper accompanying Arzee of Babu Mahesh Dutt Shaw, Zemindar of Pergannah Husseypore, etc., and nephew of Futtay Shaw.

“ In the Fuslie year 1189, by my good fortune, the Hon’ble the Governor-General honoured the City of Benares with his presence, when having obtained an interview I presented a petition to him, acquainting him with my situation and requesting a sunnud for my Zemindaree and malikana. I afterwards accompanied him to Patna, where he took me by the hand and recommended me to Mr. Charters, desiring him to visit Husseypore, etc., and after examining into the nature of my case to report an account thereof to him. Mr. Charters accordingly took me with him, and proceeded to the said pergannah, and having investigated my title amongst the pergannah officers, said : “ The Zemindary is your right, and you shall receive a sunnud for the Zemindary and malikana from the Supreme Council.” On this I deputed my Vakeel to wait on the Board, before whom he laid a petition representing my case and requesting a sunnud for the Zemindary and malikana, and agreeable thereto, on the 18th Pous of the Bengal year 1189, or 20th December 1782, a publication of three months’ limitation was issued, the term of which has expired, and even a twelve months’ more without any claimant appearing. Besides your petitioner, there is no heir or legal pretender to this Zemindary.”

(A true translation.)

(Sd.) J. H. HARINGTON.

P. T. Revenue Department.

Agreed that a copy thereof be referred, with the following letter, to the Committee of Revenue.

To

MR. SAMUEL CHARTERS,

Acting President and Member of the Committee of Revenue.

GENTLEMEN,

Enclosed we transmit you the copy of a petition which we have received from Mohesh Dutt Shaw, and we desire you will report to us, whether there is any objection to our granting him a sunnud for the Zemindary and Malikana villages which he lays claim to.

We are, &c.,

FORT WILLIAM,
26th May, 1784.

}

(Sd.) R. W. TILGHMAN,
Officiating Deputy Secretary to Government.

Extracts from the Proceedings of the Governor-General in Council in the Revenue Department, dated the 2nd November, 1784.

Read the following letter and enclosure from the Committee of Revenue, dated the 28th October, 1784.

To

THE HON'BLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ.,

Governor-General and in Council, Fort William.

HON'BLE SIR & SIRS,

We have now the honor to reply to your letter of the 26th May last, enclosing a petition from Moheshdutt Shaw, and requesting us to inform you if any objection existed to granting him a sunnud for the Malikana and Zemindary of Hosseypore to which he laid claim.

The enquiries we were under the necessity of making prevented an earlier reply on our part. It appears by an explanation afforded by the Collector of Sircar Saran, that Moheshdutt Shaw is the great-grandson of the original proprietor of Husseypore, Raja Kurtal Shaw. That Futtay Shaw, a grandson of Kurtal Shaw, succeeds the zemindary on the death of his brother, Seebdown Shaw, and in consequence of the exclusion of Futtay Shaw and his family for defection, Moheshdutt Shaw is the next heir in succession for the inheritance.

On these grounds his claims are founded, but his succession to the zemindary is rather in our opinion to be considered as a matter of favour than as a right, and the objection to complying with the prayer of his petition arises on motives of policy and are as follows: That it might induce Futtay Shaw, who has frequently committed depredations in the Company's Territories, to renew them, obstruct the Collector and probably endanger the life of Moheshdutt. Basant Shaw was actually murdered by Futtay Shaw on suspicion only of his having engaged with Government for rents.

The army grant of Malikana villages will be a deduction from the Revenue of Government, and in the present instance will, according to the usage of the district, amount to about Rs. 16,500 per annum.

If your Hon'ble Board should agree to invest Mohesh Dutt with the Zemindary and Malikana, we are of opinion that this grant should be conferred on the express condition of suppressing the depredations of Futtay Shaw and made revocable, in case he should, from inability or other course, fail in executing his condition.

But if your Hon'ble Board should think Mohesh Dutt entitled to any subsistence from Government, this may be done by granting him

a pecuniary allowance to be received monthly, and the material political objection will by this mode be done away with.

We have the honor to be, with respect, &c.

(Sd.) J. SHORE,

Calcutta, the 28th October 1784.

,, J. EVELYN.

Extract from a letter to the Committee of Revenue, dated the 2nd November, 1784.

Para 6, 28th October, 1784.—We leave it to you to determine on Mohesh Dutt's right by adopting, as you may think preferable, either of the alternatives you point out, or by rejecting both, only observing that should you think it advisable to invest him with the Zamindari of Husseypur, it would be done on the express conditions of his effectually suppressing the depredations of Futtay Shaw, and if possible, delivering up his person to Government within the term of one year, inserting a clause in his Sunnud that in the event of his failing in obtaining the ends either from negligence or such other cause, as shall be deemed unsatisfactory by Government upon a report thereof, which we direct you to make to us on the expiration of the present Behar year, he will subject himself to immediate dispossession, together with the loss of every other interest which he may hold in the land in question.

Terrl. Department, the 8th August, 1820.

(Sd.) W. TILGHMAN,

Offg. Deputy Secretary to the Government.

(A true copy).

General.

To

MAHARAJA CHATTERDHAREE SHAHEE,

Maharaja of Hutwa.

MY FRIEND,

I am in receipt of your petition, dated the 20th ultimo, forwarded by the Commissioner of Patna, and, in reply, have to offer you my acknowledgment for the loyalty and good feeling earned by you towards the Government. I have noticed with great satisfaction the willing assistance you have rendered to the local officers in the district

of Saran, and the measures you have taken for the apprehension of any mutineers who may attempt to take shelter in your zemindary.

I am,

FORT WILLIAM :
The 15th July, 1857. }

Your sincere friend,
(Sd.) FRED. JOS. HALLIDAY.

Roobkar (Proceedings) held by Mr. Thomas Edwards, the Commissioner of Revenue of the 11th Division, comprising the districts of Patna, Saran, etc., on Friday, the 1st September, 1837, corresponding with 6th Bhado, 1242 F.S.

The family of Maharaja Chatterdharee Shahee Bahadur, proprietors of Raj Hosseypore, Pergs. Kallyanpore, Pachlak, etc., in the district of Saran, has held in succession the zemindaree of Hosseypore in the aforesaid Pegannahs and Zillah with the title of "Maharaja Bahadur" for more than one hundred years since the time of Maharaja Khemkaran Sahee Bahadur. After the death of Maharaja Futteh Sahee Bahadur, and on the reports of the former Commissioner, the Governor-General has conferred the title of Maharaja Bahadur on Maharaja Chatterdharee Sahee with a khillut, which was received in this office with a letter dated 17th July, 1837. The khillut in question has this day been granted by me to Maharaja Chatterdharee Shahee Bahadur. As it is now necessary to notify all, in accordance with the orders of Government, the title of "Maharaja Bahadur" bestowed on Maharaja Chatterdharee Shahee Bahadur, as well as to cause the word "Maharaja" to be written in the papers of all the offices of Government, it is ordered that a copy of this Roobkar be sent respectively to the Collector, Magistrate and others of the districts of Saran, Shahabad, Behar and Patna, with a request that Chatterdharee Shahee be styled "Maharaja Bahadur" in all the papers in the respective offices of the said officers in connection with the said Maharaja Chatterdharee Shahee Bahadur. It is moreover directed that a copy of the Roobkar be forwarded to the Judge of each of the said four districts for information, and a copy also transmitted to Maharaja Chatterdharee Shahee.

Order by Mr. Edward Alexander Samuells, Commissioner of Patna, on the petition of Maharaja Chatterdharee Shahee.

"The good and zealous services which the Maharaja has, from his attachments and devotion to the State, done by promptly obeying and executing the orders issued by Government and its officers, as well as

by me, are known. Especially during the recent mutiny, the Maharaja executed with promptitude and in such a manner as it should be, all orders issued to him, and gave every assistance to the British functionaries. Having had regard to the loyalty which the Maharaja has displayed, I wish that Government should confer a suitable reward on him for his zealous service, submission and obedience. It is therefore ordered that the original petition, after a copy thereof being kept for record in this office, be sent with a letter in English to the Commissioner of the district of Gorackpore, etc., in order that the said officer in consideration of the foregoing facts, may instruct the Collector of the Gorackpore district to pay due attention to the request preferred by the Mooktears of the Maharaja on behalf of the Maharaja for settlement with him of the confiscated Mahals of the rebels.

(Sd.) E. A. SAMUELLS,
Commissioner.

30th January 1858.

FROM
THE COMMISSIONER OF THE PATNA DIVISION.
TO
THE COMMISSIONER OF GORACKPORE.

Dated Patna, the 20th February, 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward herewith an original urzee from Maharaja Chutterdharee Shahee Bahadur, Raja of Hutwa, Zillah Saran, praying that he may be allowed to engage for certain confiscated estates in Zillah Gorackpore, the names of which, however, he has omitted to specify.

2. The Raja of Hutwa has particularly distinguished himself during the rebellion by loyalty to the British Government, the readiness with which he has met every requisition made upon him, and the pains which he has taken to keep the Government informed of the movements and intentions of the Gorackpore rebels. No zemindar in this division has exerted himself more strenuously in our favour than the Hutwa Raja, and there is no doubt that he has incurred heavy expenses in doing so. I have much pleasure therefore in forwarding the Raja's urzee, and trust that when the claims of different parties to the settlements of the confiscated estates in Gorackpore are taken into consideration, those of the Hutwa Raja may be favourably regarded.

I have, etc.

(Sd.) E. A. SAMUELLS.

To

E. A. SAMUELLS, ESQ.

*Commissioner of Revenue, Patna Division.**Chupra, March 18th, 1858.*

SIR,

I beg to report for your information the death of Maharaja Chutterdharee Shahee of Hutwa, which took place on the afternoon of the 16th instant at Hutwa.

Throughout the crisis which has lately passed, the deceased Rajah proved himself a staunch ally of the British Government; his loyalty was never for one moment doubted, and from the very outset of the rebellion, the whole of his resources were placed at the disposal of the authorities in this district for the preservation of peace and order.

The pergannah in the vicinity of Hutwa, as you are no doubt aware, adjoins the Gorackpore District, and yet when that District had been temporarily abandoned to anarchy and rapine, not a village on the Saran side of the boundary became the scene of disorder.

By the decease of the Raja of Hutwa Government has lost a truly loyal subject.

I have, etc.

(Sd.) R. J. RICHARDSON,

Offg. Collector of Saran.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, CALCUTTA.

Dated 22nd January, 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward herewith a translation of an urzee addressed to me by Koomar Rajendro Protap Shahee together with its enclosures; and two Khureetas, one for the Governor-General, the other for the Lieutenant-Governor.

2. Rajendro Protap Shahee represents that he has obtained Certificate of the Civil Court under Act XX of 1841, and that the petition of his uncles has been rejected; he prays therefore that he may be vested with the usual *khilat*, and that the title of Maharaja may be conferred on him.

3. It is no doubt possible, though I think not probable, that the uncles may succeed in obtaining a reversal of the Judge's order and procuring a partition of the property. But the succession to the Raj is a matter quite apart. It rests with the Lieutenant-Governor to bestow the title on whom he pleases. There can be no ground for bestowing it on either of the two uncles who claim a share of the property,

for they are the two youngest and have not distinguished themselves in any way known. Rajendro Protap's father is the eldest grandson and the person to whom the title if hereditary would fall. He waives it in favour of his son. The second brother acquiesces in the propriety of this arrangement. The young man's character is good, and the Raja's dying request to Messrs. Lynch and Macdonell was, that the Government would support him, a request which, considering the late Raja's good services to Government, I do think some attention should be paid. The result of the uncles' claims to a share of the property cannot affect in any way that I see, the claims of the eldest grandson or of his son to the title. I therefore recommend the young Koomar's application to the favorable consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor. It is of considerable importance to Government that, whatever doubt there is about the property, there should be none about the title, and that there should be a Raja of Hutwa bound to us by ties of gratitude, and able to exert his hereditary influence in our behalf.

I have, etc.

(Sd.) E. A. SAMUELLS,

Commissioner.

To

MAHARAJAH RAJENDRO PROTAP SHAHEE BAHADUR,

Calcutta, November 23rd, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR,

I promised your Vakeel that I would write and let you know when the Governor-General had been pleased to bestow on you the title of Maharaja Bahadoor in succession to your late grandfather. I now fulfil my promise.

The order has been given by the Governor-General and will sharply be communicated to you officially by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, through the Commissioner of the Patna Division.

I have known your late excellent grandfather since the year 1837, when I was an Assistant at Chupra, and I always entertained a high respect for him, especially for the exemplary way in which he discharged his duties as a landlord, and as a loyal subject of the British Government.

The manner in which he behaved from the first breaking out of these unhappy mutinies until the day of his death, was such as to command the admiration of all his friends, and to entitle him to a high place in the estimation of the Rulers of his country.

The services he rendered have had their weight in inducing the Government to confer his titles and honours upon you who is his chosen representative.

It is my earnest hope that you may live long to enjoy these honours, and that you may follow the example of your excellent grandfather by discharging faithfully, as he did, the duties of your high position in every relation of life, as a leader of society, as the head of your family as a Zemindar and a loyal subject of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, the sovereign alike of Englishmen and of the natives of Hindoostan.

I remain, my dear Sir, with best wishes,

Yours very faithfully,

(Sd.) CECIL BEADON.

FROM

LORD H. ULICK BROWNE,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

TO

R. THOMPSON ESQ.,

Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Dated, Fort William, the 17th October, 1860.

Home Department.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2602 of the 21st ultimo, and in reply to state that the reward proposed to be given to Maharaja Rajendro Protap Shahee, Raja of Hutwa, for eminent services rendered by him and his predecessor during the late disturbances, is considered by the Governor-General in Council to be well deserved.

2. His Excellency in Council authorizes the Honorable Lieutenant-Governor to confer on the Maharaja the proprietary right in confiscated villages in Shahabad, yielding a gross rental of 20,000 Rupees according to recent enquiry, and assessed in perpetuity to Government at Rupees 10,000 a year.

I have, etc.

(Sd.) H. ULICK BROWNE.

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

HIGH COURT.

(Before the Hon'ble Messrs. C. Steer and E. P. Levinge, Justices).

Cases No. 361, 371, 374 of 1860,

Babu Tilukdhoree Shahee and others ... *Plaintiffs, Appellants.*

vs.

Maharaja Rajindro Protap Shahee ... *Defendants, Respondent.*

Regular appeals from the decisions of the Judge of Sarun, dated 24th August, 1860.

(Extract.)

We do not find that it is anywhere definitely laid down what a Raj is. There are many decisions in which estates have been found to be Raj or Principalities, but what exactly constitutes a Raj has not, as we are aware, been anywhere set forth. We think, however, that the estate of Husseypore contains all the essential characteristics on account of which other large landed estates have before this been regarded as Raj, and that it is entitled to be so regarded by us.

There is no sunnud, or other patent of nobility, owing probably to all such papers having been carried off by Futteh Shahee at the time of his rebellion. His heirs are not likely, even if they have such a document to give it up to another branch of the family, who has supplanted them in the honours and possessions of their ancestors, who appear to have held that rank. The Husseypore Estate was in Fattedh Shahee's hands a very extensive one, and his means and power were, as the British Government experienced, both very considerable. An estate of this sort, both large and ancient in such hands, is not to be regarded as an ordinary zemindaree. Even where proprietors are not nobles, if their estates are very large they are regarded, according to Colebrooke, by modern Hindoo lawyers as Raj or Principalities. There is evidence of a very high character, namely, the evidence of men who are either Rajahs or descendants or connections of such, that this is a Raj, and has always been so regarded by them and by their families. It has been held in the same family for many generations, and has descended entire to one heir in exclusion of the rest of the family. The authorities in speaking and writing of this property have designated it a Raj, and it is commonly called a Raj to this day, and in recognition of it as such the title of Maharajah was accorded to Chutterdharee by the Government (not immediately but some years subsequent to his accession to the estate) on the representation of the highest local authorities that the preceding proprietors had all been Rajahs. Then as to the family custom we need say but little. Having found that the property is a Raj, as Raj there must of necessity be impartibility, and we find that it is sufficiently established by the evidence, and by the genealogical statement put in by the principal defendant, the accuracy of which has not even been impeached in the written pleadings, that the rule of the family has invariably been that the property descends entire to the eldest son. There is, we say, actual evidence of this, and the very existence of the property up to this day in its present state is proof of it. Had there been any other rule, the Estate could not have come down to the present generation with such a princely inheritance as it is. Had there even been any partition, nothing could have been easier to the plain-

tiff than to have pointed out and cited as witnesses, parties and members of the family who have received part of the Husseypore estate in any previous partition, but this obvious and facile mode of proving their own case and of utterly upsetting that of their opponents has not been attempted.

We have held that there was family custom down to Fattedh Shahee's time, by which the estate devolved to the eldest male heir. Government took the estate subject to the custom, for as there was no extinction of the Raj there was no extinction of the custom which was incident of the Raj. The Government then handed over the same estate as they received to Chutterdharee. He received it subject to the custom. Those who claim through him, as both the parties to this suit do, are bound by the custom by which he was himself bound. The heirs of Fattedh Shahee might no doubt have attacked the title of Chutterdharee on the ground of his not being entitled to the Estate by custom, but it is not competent to Chutterdharee's heirs to raise the same contention.

Whatever defect might have attached to the origin of Chutterdharee's will, it has been subsequently finally established by not having been impeached for half a century, and it is now as good as if it had never been capable of question. Acquiring as he did an estate subject to a particular custom, and having himself not done anything destructive of that custom, his heirs take it subject to the custom.

The Judge thinks that Rs 2,000 a month is proper allowance, but this seems to us out of all proportion. Besides the appellant there are two others as near relatives who are equally entitled to maintenance. If they are to get Rs 2,000 each also, the defendant will have to pay, by way of maintenance, Rs 72,000 yearly. The estate is no doubt a valuable one, but the revenue payable to Government, which of course bears some proportion to the yearly gross income, is only Rs 1,73,997. Seventy-two thousand as maintenance out of such an estate, or out of any estate, seems to us decidedly high to pay as maintenance to these junior members of the family, and we think that as Rajah Chutterdharee, during his minority, was only allowed by Government, who were his guardians, Rs 1,000 a month for his maintenance and state, the plaintiff can very well support himself and keep up the position of his rank upon the same sum. We, therefore, halve the allowance which the Judge awarded to him.

Extract of the Judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, on the the appeal of Baboo Bir Protap Shahee, and cross appeal from the High Court of Judicature at Fort William, in Bengal, delivered March 4th, 1868.

Present.

Lord Cairns.

Sir James W. Colvile.

Sir Edward Vaughan Williams.

Sir Richard T. Kinderslay.

The Judgment of the Zillah Judge, Mr. Wilkins, which was given on 24th of April, 1860 (Appendix Page 158) found that the family custom, according to which the estate was impartible, and descendible to the eldest male heir, subsisted at, and up to, the time of Fattedh Sahee, that this custom was not abrogated by his expulsion, the retention of the property by Government, and the grant of it to Chutterdharee; and that the estate was in his hands an impartible Raj, descendible to his next male heir alone, and therefore on the renunciation of Ugur Partap to the respondent. The Judge made no distinction in this respect between the moveable and immoveable property, and on the above ground decreed in favour of the respondent. He held, however, that the alleged consignment or transfer of the 5th of March, and the will, were not well proven. And he decreed an allowance of Rs. 2,000, per mensem to each of the plaintiffs, *viz.*, the appellant and his brother.

The Judgment of the High Court on appeal from this decree is at page 17 of the 2nd Record, and is dated 24th April, 1863. That Court also held that the Raj was originally impartible, and descendible by custom to the eldest male heir alone; and that it did not lose this character on its restoration to Chutterdharee. It denied that there had been or could have been any confiscation in the proper sense of the term, and in Mr. Justice Levinge's separate note at page 26, this point is more fully argued. But the High Court differing therein from the Zillah Judge, affirmed the validity of the will. It also reduced the allowance to each of the plaintiffs to Rs 1,000 per mensem.

Upon the whole, then, their Lordships have come to the conclusion that the Courts below were right in holding that the estate granted to Chutterdharee in 1790, was the Raj of Hussaipore, and that the right of succession to it from him was to be governed by law or custom which regulated its descent in the line of his ancestors.

It follows, then, that either by the special law of inheritance, or by the will, the respondent was entitled to the estate of Hussaipore, and to whatever wealth the late Maharaja could dispose of by his will.

With respect to the question raised in either appeal touching the amount of the Babuana allowance, and the costs of the proceedings in Courts below, their Lordships have only to say, that they see no sufficient ground for interfering with the discretion exercised on those

points by the High Court. The result is, that their Lordships will humbly advise Her Majesty to dismiss both the appeal and the cross appeal with costs. The appellant and respondent will each bear the costs of his appeal.

Note.

HUTWA RAJ IN THE "AIN-I-AKBARI."

When I had the honor of reading my paper on the History of the Hutwa Raj in the Society's meeting on the 4th March, 1903, Colonel Hendley, Vice-President in the Chair, very kindly suggested to me to ascertain if any account can be gathered from the *Ain-i-Akbari* regarding the Hutwa Maharajas. I had since the occasion to carefully look through the *Ain*, and the result of my investigation is embodied in the following note.

The *Ain* is singularly wanting in information of any of the Behar Rajas which claim their origin from the Mughal Emperor of Delhi, Akbar, Jehangir, or Shah Jehan. "The Darbhanga family trace their origin to one Mohesh Thakur, who originally came from near Jabalpur, in the Central Provinces, in the beginning of the sixteenth century and took service as a *purohit* or priest under the ancient Rajas of Tirhut, the descendants of Sheo Sing. After Tirhut was conquered and the race of that prince became extinct, Mohesh Thakur is said to have proceeded to Delhi, where his abilities procured him an introduction to the Emperor Akbar and subsequently the grant of the Darbhanga Raj. According to another account, it was one of his pupils, Raghunandan Thakur, who went to Delhi, obtained the Raj, and then out of appreciation for Mohesh made it over to him" (*vide* Hunter's Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. XIII, p. 208). But neither the names of Mohesh Thakur nor Raghunandan Thakur belonging to Darbhanga, nor any account of Sheo Sing and the overthrow of his descendants and the extinction of his race is available in the *Ain*. Neither do we find the name or any account of Bettiah or its "first Raja, who was Gaj Sing and who obtained the title from Emperor Shah Jehan" (*ibid*, p. 252). Likewise we do not find any mention in the *Ain* of the very ancient Majhowli Raj, which, I am informed, still retains a jewel-handled sword gifted by Akbar. The traditions of these Rajas should not therefore be rejected as pure fabrications, as we find from the *Ain* itself that out of 1,803 names, Abul Fazl gives the names of only 415, the chief ones, and that also of those only who were alive or dead prior to the fortieth year of Akbar's reign, *i.e.*, till 1595 A.D. (*vide* Blochmann's *Ain-i-Akbari*, Vol. I, pages 526-35). The omission of the names in the *Ain* of Maharaja

Kalyan Mall, of the Hutwa family, may be justly ascribed to the fact that we have fixed the date of his ascension to be 1600 A.D., *i.e.*, at a period posterior to that of which the *Ain* gives the list. But fortunately we can very fairly and safely trace from the *Ain* incidents in which Kalyan Mall must have taken share and which caused his rise. Muzaffar had commenced vigorously to collect the outstanding from Makhsum Kabli and several other grandees that held *jagirs* in Behar, upon which they had rebelled and joined with the rebel jagirdars of Bengal under Babu Khan Qushqal. On Muzaffar's death the rebels occupied the whole of Bengal and Behar, and Akbar sent Todar Mall to Behar to subdue the rebels. Makhsum Khan Hazari, who had received Ghazipur as his *tuyūl*, joined Sadar Mall, but was anxious to go over to the rebels and actually did so, finding the Emperor personally embarrassed in the subjugation of his brother, who had threatened to invade the Punjab. He seized Jaunpur, but was defeated near Oudh by Shahbaz Khan. He then collected his men and surprised and plundered the town of Bahraich. From Bahraich he was driven by the imperialists (amongst whom was Vazir Khan and others from Hajipur) over Kalyanpur to Muhammadabad (in Ghazipur), which he plundered and prepared to attack Jaunpur. Shahan Khan Jalair, from Narhan, and Pahar Khan, from Ghazipur, united their contingents and pursued Makhsum so effectually that he applied to Aziz Kokah to intercede for him with the Emperor. Akbar pardoned him and gave him Pergannah Mehsi, Sircar Champaran, as *tuyūl* (Blochmann's *Ain-i-Akbari*, Vol. I, pages 350, 351, 400, 410, 443, 444).

With these facts in view it seems doubtless that Raja Kalyan Mall was not idle enough to partake a share in subduing the rebellion raging in his own country and in the vicinity. Further, we find his seat, Kalyanpur distinctly mentioned also in Vol. II, Fasc. II, p. 156, of Colonel H. S. Jarrett's *Ain-i-Akbari*, to be in Sircar Saran.

We can, therefore, very well deduce that the services of Raja Kalyan Mall were recognised and he was made a "Maharaja" in the latter part of Akbar's reign.

